



DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Commencement Recognition Ceremony

CLASS OF 2026



Program

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Lisa Corwin

INTRODUCTION TO THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

Graduate Chair, Dr. Valerie McKenzie

GRADUATE STUDENT DEGREE CONFERRAL

Graduate Chair, Dr. Valerie McKenzie

INTRODUCTION TO THE UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROGRAM

Honors Council Representative, Dr. Barbara Demmig-Adams

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS STUDENT DEGREE CONFERRAL

Honors Council Representative, Dr. Barbara Demmig-Adams

INTRODUCTION TO THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Undergraduate Chair, Dr. Eve-Lyn Hinckley

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE CONFERRAL

Undergraduate Chair, Dr. Eve-Lyn Hinckley

GRADUATE STUDENT COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Jessica Edith Rush, PhD

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Kathleen Barr, *summa cum laude*

CLOSING REMARKS

Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Lisa Corwin

The ceremony will begin at 1:00 and is expected to last approximately 2 hours.

Awards

2026 Excellence in Teaching Award

Mailor Amaral
William Anderson
Katherine Bardsley
Mary Childress
Alec Chiono
Daniel Klee
Henry Li
Kathryn Naherny
Charlie Oliver
Seth Raynor
Samantha Rothberg
Andy Tan
Lincoln Taylor

2026 Excellence in Service Award

Sara Garcia
Zachary Schwartz

2026 Mel Cundiff Endowments

Andres Max Better	Madison Mckee
Elyssa Cardella	Charlie Meeks
Ellie Coverdell	Georgia Meysman-Sharpe
Rhiannon Danborn	Arin Oberley
Gabby Edmonds	Hannah Vogel
Celia Frankenheimer	Caley Walsh
James Gerdeman	Nic Woods
Caroline Lester	Sophia Wosk
Elan Loundy	Mary Zadrozny

EBIO Department Research Faculty & Research Interests

More details may be found on our website: <http://www.colorado.edu/ebio/faculty>

William W. Adams III Professor	Plant ecophysiology, photosynthesis, environmental stress, phloem structure & function.
M. Deane Bowers Emeritus Professor, Curator of Entomology	Insect ecology and evolution, plant-animal interactions, chemical ecology.
Lisa Corwin Associate Professor	Teaching and learning of ecology and evolution, student identity and learning and persistence in scientific fields.
Kendi Davies Associate Professor	Spatial dynamics of communities and populations, invasion, extinction, grasslands, microcosms, habitat fragmentation.
Laura Dee Associate Professor	Preservation of natural systems and biodiversity, continued provision of ecosystem services under global change.
Barbara Demmig-Adams Professor of Distinction, Director of Honors Program	Plant ecophysiology, photosynthesis, mechanisms of plant stress adaptation.
Nancy Emery Associate Professor	Population biology, community ecology, and evolutionary biology—understanding how plants adapt & persist in a changing world.
Luke Evans Assistant Professor	Population and quantitative genetics, adaptation, human behavior and complex traits.
Noah Fierer Professor	Soil ecology, microbial ecology, role of microorganisms in terrestrial ecosystems.
Michael Gil Assistant Professor	Marine ecology, marine ecosystem response to wild animal decision-making and human-driven change, science communication
Eve-Lyn Hinckley Associate Professor, Undergraduate Program Chair	Ecosystem biogeochemistry, optimization of agricultural practices, network observatory research design
Pieter Johnson Distinguished Professor, Director of Honors Program	Ecology of biological change, esp. invasive species & emerging diseases; aquatic ecology & evolution; conservation biology.
Nolan Kane Associate Professor	Evolutionary genomics of adaptation, speciation, hybridization, domestication, and invasion.

Patrick Kociolek Professor, Curator of Diatoms	Taxonomy, systematics and evolutionary history of diatoms, diatoms and water quality, aquatic ecology.
Jingchun Li Associate Professor, Curator of Invertebrates	Invertebrate evolution, biodiversity, symbiosis, marine biology and functional genomics
Erin Manzitto-Tripp Associate Professor, Curator of Botany	Plant systematics and evolution, lichen biodiversity, tropical biology, molecular evolution.
Andrew Martin Professor	Evolutionary and conservation biology, microbial diversity, biogeography.
Andrew McAdam Professor, Department Chair	Behavioral ecology, evolutionary ecology, plant-animal interactions, physiological ecology, pulsed resources.
Christy M. McCain Professor, Curator of Vertebrates	Community ecology, montane ecology, climate change, vertebrate population and conservation biology, biogeography.
Valerie McKenzie Professor, Graduate Program Chair	Parasitology, disease ecology, amphibian declines, herpetology, wildlife conservation, land use change, invasive species.
Daniel M. Medeiros Professor	Developmental & genetic bases of vertebrate evolution, developmental gene regulation, evolution of vertebrate head skeleton.
Brett Melbourne Professor	Mathematical ecology of populations and communities, biodiversity, conservation, invasion, extinction.
Isabella Oleksy Assistant Professor	Limnology, biogeochemistry, aquatic ecosystems in mountainous regions, wildfires and water quality, ice phenology
Alisha Quandt Associate Professor	Mycology, evolution, fungal genomics and systematics, microbe-microbe interactions, insect-pathogenic fungi interactions
Samuel Ramsey Assistant Professor	Entomology, biology of bees, parasites and symbiosis, science communication
Julian Resasco Associate Professor	Landscape connectivity/corridors, habitat fragmentation, plant-pollinator networks, insect community ecology and conservation
Rebecca Safran Professor	Behavior, morphology, and physiology; population patterns; social and genetic structure; population stability; species boundaries.

Steve K. Schmidt Professor	Microbial ecology, plant/microbe interactions, biogeochemistry, mycorrhizae.
Stacey D. Smith Associate Professor	Evolutionary genetics, molecular phylogenetics, plant-pollinator interactions, comparative methods.
Ryan St Laurent Assistant Professor, Curator of Entomology	Insect-plant interactions, phylogenetics, systematics, taxonomy
David W. Stock Associate Professor	Developmental genetic mechanisms of the evolution of teeth in fishes.
Katharine Suding Distinguished Professor	Community ecology, restoration, invasion, environmental change, alpine and grasslands.
Scott Taylor Associate Professor, Director MRS	Hybridization, speciation, evolutionary ecology, and population genomics (primarily of birds).
Merritt R. Turetsky Professor	Ecosystem ecology, disturbance ecology including wildfire, carbon and nutrient biogeochemistry

EBIO Teaching Faculty

John Basey

Teaching Professor

Teresa Bilinski

Teaching Associate Professor

Harrison Carpenter

Teaching Associate Professor

Eve Cooper

Teaching Assistant Professor

Caitlin Kelly

Teaching Assistant Professor

Abbey Paulson

Teaching Assistant Professor

Stephanie Polutchko

Teaching Assistant Professor

Stephanie Renfrow

Teaching Associate Professor

Warren Sconiers

Teaching Associate Professor

Derek Sweeney

Teaching Assistant Professor

PhD Graduates

Sam Ahler

PhD

Dissertation Title: From prairie plants to people: Determining barriers to and mechanisms for increasing the emergence and persistence of diverse populations and communities in a changing world

Advisor: Dr. Katharine Suding

Thank you to my family, friends, collaborators, teachers, and students for listening to me talk about grass. Looking forward to many more years of watching grass grow.

Christopher H. Arehart

PhD

Dissertation Title: Multi-omic, multivariate, and network modeling approaches disentangle the genetic influences and biological pathways of complex traits

Advisor: Dr. Luke M. Evans

Chris would like to thank his advisor, Luke, for his mentorship and support, and is grateful to his wife Becca and his family for their love and encouragement.

Vlonjat Lonnie Gashi

PhD

Dissertation Title: Developmental genomics of catfish skin: Evolution of bony armor and denticles through redeployment of ancient gene regulatory toolkit

Advisor: Dr. David Stock

To my family, especially my parents, Agron and Lule Gashi: thank you for inspiring me. By introducing me to science early and believing in me, you helped me find joy in every step of my Ph.D. journey. I truly could not have done this without your endless support and love.

Skylar Graves

PhD

Dissertation Title: Tropical Flowering Phenology

Advisor: Dr. Erin Manzitto-Tripp

I would like to thank my partner Ryan and my cat Bubs for their undying love and support, as well as my best friend Ena for being there for me for over 18 years. Thank you to my family for being here today. My plans for the future include continuing my career in academia in a country that actually funds and supports the sciences.

Asia Kaiser

PhD

Dissertation Title: The Landscape and Socioecological Drivers of Insect Biodiversity in Cities

Advisor: Dr. Julian Resasco

Thank you to my mom and dad for providing me with great educational opportunities early on that set up the foundation for me to complete my PhD. A special thank you to my wonderful husband, John Russell, and my dog, Jackie sweetest goober, for their support throughout this entire process.

Katie Kariatsumari**PhD**

Dissertation Title: The role of small mammal granivores in ecological speciation of two sunflower ecotypes

Advisor: Dr. Andrew McAdam

Thank you to my advisor Andrew, my committee, labmates, friends, and family!

Heather Violet Kenny-Duddela**PhD**

Dissertation Title: Multi-scale spatial, social, and phenotype determinants of mating outcomes in North American barn swallows

Advisor: Dr. Rebecca Safran

I will be starting a postdoc position at the University of Georgia researching wild turkey behavior.

Thomas Kalem Merchant**PhD**

Dissertation Title: Rangeland sensitivity and resilience to changing precipitation regimes: Scaling from local experiments to regional patterns

Advisor: Dr. Katharine Suding

I am immensely grateful to Elisa, my family, my advisor, and the many amazing iterations of the Suding Lab for all their support.

Jessica Edith Rush**PhD**

Dissertation Title: Effects of Organic Matter Redox Reactions on Carbon Cycling in Boreal Peatland Ecosystems

Advisor: Dr. Eve-Lyn Hinckley

I am grateful to have worked with a group of not just brilliant, but kind scientists during my tenure as a graduate student. A special thank you to “Advisor” and “Boss” for your mentorship and support during my PhD. Thanks to the best lab mates, my Boulder core, and all my friends and family. I’m excited to continue studying peatlands as a postdoctoral researcher at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory starting end of May!

Ellen Waddle**PhD**

Dissertation Title: Movement and demographic performance of plant populations in mountain landscapes: how life history patterns and anisotropic dispersal will shape temporal and spatial dynamics

Advisor: Dr. Dan Doak

Hailey Katherine Webb**PhD**

Dissertation Title: Abrupt and Gradual Permafrost Thaw in Alaska: Multi-scale Patterns, Processes, and Impacts

Advisor: Dr. Merritt Turetsky

Thank you to my family and friends for all your support over the last 5 years. I am so blessed to have you all in my life.

MA Graduates

Hunter Geist-Sanchez

Master's

Thesis Title: From seed to buffalo: Building resilience in Colorado grasslands

Advisor: Dr. Katharine Suding

Thank you to my family and friends for supporting me throughout my master's research. Thank you to the Suding Lab and Katie for your guidance and growth as a scientist. And to my Katie, thank you for listening to all my grass and buffalo rants—I love you!

Grace Yurkunas

Master's

Thesis Title: Understanding the Effects of Temperature on Wild Sunflower Seed Germination (Helianthus spp.) Across Altitude Gradients

Advisor: Dr. Nolan Kane

To my mom and dad, thank you for your unconditional love, encouragement, and support, and for instilling in me a deep love of learning and the natural world.

Undergraduates – Honors Theses

Kathleen Barr

summa cum laude

Thesis Title: Close Relatives Reduce Invasive Cheatgrass Performance in a Front Range Grassland

Advisor: Dr. Katharine Suding

Nathan Michael Carley

summa cum laude

Thesis Title: Effects of Nest Insulation and Ambient Temperature on Incubation Behavior of Two Species of Colorado Front Range Chickadees

Advisor: Dr. Scott Taylor

Thanks to everyone for supporting me through my undergrad! This summer I will be working for the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies doing bird population surveys in Colorado, and in July I will start a yearlong position at the University of Kansas.

Edie Clark

magna cum laude

Thesis Title: Assessing the Role of Pseudocyphellae and Thallus Traits in Modulating Water Relations of Crocodia aurata (Peltigeraceae) Across a Moisture Gradient in the Premontane Tropical Forest of Costa Rica

Advisor: Dr. Erin Manzitto-Tripp

I'm incredibly grateful for all of my amazing mentors in the EBIO department and my friends and family for supporting me through my academic passions. This fall, I will be entering a Ph.D. program in biology at the University of Arkansas, advised by Dr. Andrew Alverson. Go algae!

Eva Lucia R. Corral

magna cum laude

Thesis Title: Comparing parental provisioning behaviors between two co-occurring chickadees in Colorado

Advisor: Dr. Scott Taylor

Thank you to my parents, siblings, friends, and the members of the Taylor Lab for their unyielding support for me through my undergraduate career and my honors thesis. I'm so grateful to have had such a great support system, and I cannot wait to see what my future in ecological research holds.

Jordayn Eichhorn

summa cum laude

Thesis Title: Exploring the Impacts of Human Disturbance on Bird Species Richness and Abundance at California Ponds

Advisor: Dr. Pieter Johnson

I would like to thank Dr. Pieter Johnson and Dana Calhoun for their encouragement and support. I would especially like to thank my mum, who has always been my biggest inspiration.

Andrea M. Gaccetta

magna cum laude

Thesis Title: Apple Trees as Ecosystem Engineers: The Effects of Orchard Management on Soil Chemistry and Microbial Communities

Advisor: Dr. Teresa Bilinski

I would like to thank everyone in the REACH Lab and the Boulder Apple Tree Project for their mentorship, encouragement, and community. My time at CU would not have been the same without these individuals; I am profoundly grateful for their support in helping me grow into the ecologist and scientist I am today.

Uma Lou Gerweck

summa cum laude

Thesis Title: Lack of Association Between Seed Mass and Viability in Diverging Ecotypes of Helianthus petiolaris Despite Differences in Emergence Patterns

Advisor: Dr. Andrew McAdam

Ailey Elizabeth Golightly Pittman

magna cum laude

Thesis Title: Evaluating Trends in American Pika Habitat Occupancy at Niwot Ridge Long-Term Ecological Research Site

Advisor: Dr. Chris Ray

Thank you to the EBIO program, my friends and my horses for making these years the best of my life, to my amazingly selfless parents, Jen and Dana, and to Dylan for holding me up and making me me. Due to this support, I've been accepted into CSU's DVM program and will begin this fall!

Liam Gutiérrez Santos***summa cum laude***

Thesis Title: Foraging Behavior of Herbivorous Fishes: Effects of Rugosity and Sociality

Advisor: Dr. Michael Gil

I'd like to thank my advisor Dr. Mike Gil, my mentor Madelyn Hair, and the rest of the Gil Lab, for their unwavering encouragement and indispensable guidance. I'd also like to thank my family and friends for their advice and support; I could not have gotten to where I am without them. I plan on applying to graduate school to gain a master's degree next year, after gaining hands-on experience in other fields within ecology.

Easton Klein***magna cum laude***

Thesis Title: The active fraction and community composition of microbes at different stages of soil development in the High Arctic

Advisor: Dr. Steve Schmidt

Thank you to all my mentors, professors, and friends I have met over the past four years. The EBIO program has brought me so much support and community, and I will deeply cherish my time at CU. After graduation, I will work as a summer field technician with the Mountain Ecology and Biogeography lab.

Samantha Kruczek***summa cum laude***

Thesis Title: Reproductive effects of scaly-leg mites on mountain chickadees

Advisor: Dr. Scott Taylor

Thank you to my friends, family, and the Taylor lab!

Noah Mayer***summa cum laude***

Thesis Title: City Slickers: How Urban Landscapes Affect Arthropod Herbivores and Their Natural Enemies

Advisor: Dr. Julian Resasco

I would like to thank my advisor Dr. Julian Resasco and my mentor Asia Kaiser for inspiring me to undertake such a rewarding thesis project. I would also like to thank my parents for their endless support throughout my college career. My plan is to continue my passion of doing research in ecology.

Maia Avanell Parkin***magna cum laude***

Thesis Title: Methodological Advances for Understanding the Function and Evolution of Twist gene Cis-Regulatory Elements

Advisor: Dr. Daniel Medeiros

I am forever grateful to my wonderful family and friends

Naomi Pearlman***magna cum laude****Thesis Title: Social Cues and Information Cascades within Garden Eel Communities*

Advisor: Dr. Michael Gil

Thank you to my family and friends for all your incredible encouragement. Thank you Dr. Mike Gil and PhD student Ella Henry for the support with my honors thesis. I am excited to continue on my postgraduate studies this fall at the University of Plymouth in England.

Julia Pop***summa cum laude****Thesis Title: Investigating Recent Ecological Change in Southwestern Colorado Mountain Lakes*

Advisor: Dr. Isabella Oleksy

Dillan Rogers***summa cum laude****Thesis Title: A Loss of Life and Data: The Cultural Politics of Lab Animal Use in the Space Race*

Advisor: Dr. Abby Hickcox

Thank you to Dr. Hickcox, Dr. Oliveras, Dr. Kociolek, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Molchanova, Staphanie Colunga Montoya, Claire Figel, Dr. Martin, Dr. Paulson, and my brilliantly kind family and friends. You have shaped me not only into the academic I am, but also into the person I am today.

Gavin Schoew***summa cum laude****Thesis Title: Plains Aflame: Effects of Fire on Plant Functional Composition in a Xeric Tallgrass Prairie in Boulder, Colorado*

Advisor: Dr. Katharine Suding

I would like to thank everyone in my family, all my friends, and my amazing girlfriend for all their support during my undergraduate career! I also am very grateful to Sam, Tom, and Dr. Suding at the Suding Lab for supporting me through my Honors Thesis process. I am planning to work as an ecologist or a geospatial data analyst in the future.

Peyton Vetter***cum laude****Thesis Title: Insects of the Boulder Apple Tree Project's Jay Road Orchard: Abundance of Insect Orders in a Semiurban Apple Orchard*

Advisor: Dr. Warren Sconiers

I'd like to thank the REACH Lab, especially PhD candidate Manuela Mejia and Drs. Lisa Corwin and Sandhya Krishnan, for bringing me into the world of academia and scholarship. I will be pursuing my Master's in Entomology at the University of Maryland College Park this August, in large part because the EBIO Department made me who I am today. I will always be grateful for what I have gained from my years in this community.

Undergraduates

Isabella Aguilar

Ariann Aidun

Alexandra Allred

To my parents and professors: thank you for the support over these four incredible years. I couldn't have done it without you. Is it too late to ask for a 5th year? If so, I'm off to Denver to start my career in recruiting and sales. Excited for the next chapter! Sko Buffs!

Katelyn Anderson

Kipling Argraves

I'd like to thank my mother, Kelley Argraves, and my partner, Sebastian Nicholson, for all their support; I wouldn't have been able to move here and pursue this degree without their invaluable help and guidance. In the future, I plan to pursue a Ph.D and teach ornithology either in a college or community education setting.

Delaney Armbruster

Rene Aronson

Katie Barry

Anna Bartschi

I'm so grateful for the family and friends who have supported me through the past four years! Especially, my mom, dad, and sister. I couldn't ask for a better college experience. Thank you for everything and I love you guys!

Sophia Basche

Ava Marie Louise Beggs

I am deeply grateful for the constant love and support from my parents, family, and friends throughout my entire journey. Your encouragement and belief in me have meant everything, and I am incredibly thankful to have your continued support as I take this next step in higher education.

Cece Benza

Catherine Virginia Biggers

I would like to thank my family and friends for your support, I love you all!

Ashley Rose Biggs

Thank you Mom and Dad for everything, I love you guys. I'm excited to kick off my career in watershed science and can't wait to see where the flow takes me.

Duncan Bixby

Thanks to my family and friends for supporting me through my academic journey, as well as my not so academic journey. Thanks to the EBIO department for making me feel confident about my choice in my major. My plan for my future is to go home to Washington and hug my dog, Olive. SKO BUFFS!

Andrew Lawrence

Bouzarelos

Thanks to all my family who supported me through this endeavor. I am especially thankful to my Papou and Yiayia and grandma for supporting me and being here to celebrate today!

Connor Bradley

Evan Bradley

Catherine Kaimanaokalani Brind

I would like to thank my two amazing moms who have raised me into the woman I am today. I am so thankful that you are my wonderful parents!

Libby Brown

Chloe Ann Cada

"Proud, to have accomplished... whatever." - Bill Borchardt, American Movie

Sebastian Cedeno Gonzalez

Essa Chadwick

Brodie Lewis Kilgore Clark

Katrina Coonan	I would like to thank my family and friends for their endless support throughout my journey at CU Boulder. After graduation, I plan to pursue a master's degree and apply my background in evolutionary biology and ecology to environmental challenges in the energy sector.
Connor Cook	Thank you Mom, Dad, and Abigail for your unwavering love and support.
Camille Cornachio	
Roganna Madalena Crown	I am incredibly thankful to my friends and family for their endless love, encouragement, and support. I'm also grateful to CU for bringing me lifelong friends and unforgettable memories. After graduation, I plan to work in animal care and rehabilitation. SKO BUFFS!
Austin Dale	
Madison Dang	
Juliette Rece Davis	Thank you to everyone who has supported me on this journey. I would not have been able to achieve any of this without your support and love. Thank you to my parents for the sacrifices you have made to ensure that I can explore my passions and make it to this point in my life. I love you all!
Autumn Day	I would like to sincerely thank my parents for their constant support, especially when I doubted my own ability to succeed. I am also deeply grateful to my family and friends for reaching out with kindness and care during times when I felt isolated and alone. My future plans involve attending Colorado State University to pursue a degree in veterinary medicine. I intend to specialize in equine care and will be volunteering on ranches throughout the summer to gain hands-on experience.
David Welwood Deckerman	I would like to thank my family and friends for supporting me unconditionally! I plan to pursue the field of perfusion and clinical research.
Lex Dembo	
Aimee Diamond	
Ella Clare Dietz	Thank you Mom, Dad, Jack, Megan, and Ivy.
Elliott DiSalvo	I want to thank my Uncle and Grandfather who cannot be here today. I miss you both, and I know both of you would be proud of my graduation and my future. I am excited to be working with the National Park Service after graduation and spending my time outside.
Odessa Easton	Thank you to all of my family for your constant support and sacrifices. I see all that you've done for me and I wouldn't be here without you.
Maxwell James Elder	Thank you to my wonderful parents, Mom and Ima, who have given me so much support and love the past 22 years. Thank you also to the found family and true friends that have made Boulder feel like home.
Skylar Ellis	I'd like to thank Kate Fischer for her guidance and support. I'd like to also thank my family for their immense support on this journey, especially my sister Tayla and my mom. I'm headed to CSU for my masters in the Fall. I hope to work as a biologist or animal scientist in a zoo or aquarium in my future. "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard"- Winnie the Pooh
Margo Evans	
Jared Felton	Grateful for my family for their constant support in helping me achieve this milestone. I look forward to a career in military service.
Mia Ferrario	
Talli Fox	
Megan Gallagher	

Katherine Gassman	Thank you to my parents, Aimee & Steve, for providing a supportive & loving foundation; my sisters, Lindsay & Molly, for inspiring me and being my best friends; my grandparents, Connie & Loyal, for demonstrating hard work & kindness; and my Grandma, Alice for being the best cheerleader. My cup!
Piya Geithner	
Kaiden Ginther	A special thank you to everyone in my support system, my parents Bobby and Kerri, my girlfriend Karlie, and all of my roommates for dealing with all of my stressful nights. Thank you to Barchetta for funding my way through and Alisha Quandt for helping me start my journey as a mycologist.
Tomas Glauthier	
Madison Godart	
Arianna Gomez	I want to thank my friends and family for their support. I could not have done this without them. I hope to apply my education to conservation efforts and research.
Yasmeen Gonzalez	
Gavin Gordon	
Abigail Guillen	
Griffin Hall	
Jamie Hall	Thank you to everyone who has supported me through my entire school career.
Max Hammond	
Everett Reef Helfand Miller	
Jenner Leivan Hinojos	Thank you, Mom and Dad, for your endless support. This degree is for you all. I will attend CSU next year, taking veterinary school pre-requisites.
Indie Howley	
Grace Hutchens	
Bradley Jackin	
Liz Joncas	
August Churi Jones	Thank you to my infinitely supportive mom, dad, and brother. More than anyone, you have helped me grow into someone I can be proud of. I've never felt so lucky.
Alden Jones	
Addie Kelly	I would like to thank my mom, my dad and CG, for supporting me in every way.
Thomas Klein	I would like to thank my parents and professors for their unwavering support during my four years here.
Harry Robert Kuras	Majoring in EBIO with minors in Geology and Italian. Studies focused on invertebrate zoology, botany, climate sciences, and evolutionary history. Planning to study carbon capture using algae and soil microbes. I am thankful for Prof. Ramsey, Prof. Kane, Prof. McCain, Prof. Stempien, and my family for their support.
Isaiah Kyremes-Parks	Isaiah would like to thank his family network for their continued support. He plans to work in Urban Ecology after graduation, helping to connect people to the natural world around them.
Jaye Langmuir	A big thank you to my family for supporting me in all the ways they did.
Nathan Larimer	I'm so proud to be the first Larimer to make it this far. And I intend to keep on going.

Ruby Elizabeth Leuthold	I would like to thank my family for their constant support through my transition to CU and as I prepare for my future applying to veterinary school.
Irë Levitt	
Patrick Lily	
Elan Loundy	
Garrett Lyle	
Rowan MacLellan	
Audrey Celeste Maddy	
Madeline Mancini	Thank you to my family and friends for their support throughout my undergrad degree!
Madison McKee	
Greta McNulty	
Marlen Alexandra Mendez Zamora	Agradezco a mis padres por su amor incondicional y sus sacrificios—todo lo que soy es gracias a ustedes. Planeo dedicarme a la investigación clínica en oncología pediátrica para luego postularme a la escuela de medicina y continuar apoyando la salud infantil como médica!
Edgar Boutros Merhi	I want to thank my mom and dad for everything they've done for me. They have sacrificed so much, and I would not be on this stage without them. I love you both very much. I'm planning to take a gap year and then apply to master's programs.
Olivia Michael	Thank you to my family for their endless love and support on my journey and everyone who encouraged me along the way. Thank you for standing by me through every challenge. Going forward, I am excited to dedicate my career to conservation or biofuels research.
Alexa Moritz	
Isabella Morse	
Jack Morse	
Aubrey Mosley	
Fischer Nagel	Thank you Mom and Dad for your endless support, sacrifices, and belief in me. Everything I've accomplished is because of you. I plan to pursue new opportunities, keep learning, and protect our planet as a conservation biologist.
Sarah Newman	Firstly, I would like to thank every EBIO faculty member for sharing their knowledge and giving me hope for the future. A very special thanks to Dr. Nancy Emery for inspiring my passion for conservation and always motivating me to keep going. Of course, I would not be here without the support of my family and loved ones, especially my mother, Dr. Kimberly Lee, whose wisdom and love have been a guiding light for me every step of this journey. In the future, I plan to work in the ecological conservation and restoration sphere either as a science communicator or practitioner.
Aimee Loretta Nicodemus	
Jakob O'Meara	
Marcos Ortega Keshmiri	
Madelyn Rose Ozdarski	Thank you to all the EBIO professors who helped me along the way.
Vivek Patkar	
Caden Perlman	
Michael Pierson	

Aerin Pitts

Big shout out to my family, you are all the best!! Love you all so much and I am so grateful for all the love and support you have given me. You already know what's up and know big things are in store in the future. A dedication to love, hard work, and dedication #SWAG

Sage Polak

Rachel Poston

Piers Powell

Thank you, Mom, Dad, and Sage, for your endless support over the years. I would not be the person I am today without you, and I'm forever grateful to be surrounded by such intelligent, motivated, and, most importantly, kind people. Love y'all more than you know.

Coleson Probst

I would like to thank my parents and my friends; my plans are to go to grad school and become a molecular epidemiologist

Sophie Amelia Rabban

Thank you dad for everything you've done for me, I couldn't have done it without you! And Brooke you are the best friend anyone could ever ask for, you helped me get through this!

Kendal Renquist

Jaden Reuter

Allison Roberts

Leah Roberts

Samuel Rodney

I would like to thank the friends, family, and teachers who supported me, helped me grow, and taught me new ways to grow throughout my time at school. I plan to work for the next few years to gain experience and to save funds before seeking a job in my field and possibly returning to school for graduate programs and higher education.

Cameron Rogers

Jacob Rosenbaum

Thank you Mom, Dad, Willie and Dori

Jackson Ruck

As a first-generation graduate, this moment means everything. To my family thank you for paving the way. And to my boyfriend and friends, thank you for standing by me through it all. We made it!

Nicole Ruess

Katherine Elisabeth Sarko

I would like to extend my thanks and love to my family and friends who have supported me throughout my time at CU. I would not have been able to do it without them. I also want to thank my professors, especially those I was able to build meaningful academic and professional connections with. In the future, I plan to pursue a hands-on animal care position where I can contribute to conservation or rehabilitation efforts. I will forever be grateful for the time I spent in Boulder both on and off campus. Sko buffs!

Jenna Scheithauer

Thank you to my parents, Chris and Kristin Scheithauer, for their constant love and support. They work tirelessly to make my dreams possible and I am forever grateful. Thank you to Tanner Ross for standing by me through it all. I cannot wait to pursue my future career in veterinary medicine.

Alina Scrivner

I would like to extend a massive thank you to my family for supporting me throughout my undergraduate years and making my future in the Earth Sciences possible.

Elliot Sheridan

Kylie Shrank

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Laine Slinglend	I would like to thank Manuela Mejía, Dr. Medeiros, my parents, and everyone else in the EBIO department and beyond that have supported me during my time here. In the fall I will begin studying for my master's degree in Biomedical Forensic Sciences at Boston University.
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Justin Stephens	
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Olivia Wipke

Erin Wood

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CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2026!

*The EBIO Department
wishes you the best in your
next chapter!*

