



## Welcome Back!

Welcome back for the Spring semester! I hope you had a refreshing break and are ready for an exciting Spring semester!

As you dive into your classes, remember there are many ways to get involved with the department beyond the classroom.

- Join us for our **weekly coffee hour**, where you can connect with peers, faculty, and staff in a relaxed setting.
- Don't miss the **departmental colloquium series**, which features fascinating talks by experts in the field.
- If you're looking for a great community, the student run **Geology Club** is a perfect fit.
- Also, keep an eye out for other **departmental events like some of those listed down below**; these are other great ways to get to know others in the department.

February and March are also the time for applications for scholarships and various summer opportunities. Be sure to check out the folder linked below for updates on opportunities as we learn about them.

We're here to support you, so don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or ideas for getting involved. My open hours are on Mondays, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM and Fridays 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM in Benson 222B.

Let's make this semester a great one!

**Jen Stempien**  
**Undergraduate Faculty Mentor**  
**[Stempien@Colorado.edu](mailto:Stempien@Colorado.edu)**

## Important Reminders



## Add / Drop Deadlines

The last day to add or swap a full semester main campus class is today **January 16th**, followed by the last day to drop a class on **January 23rd**. To see drop deadlines for other sessions, please see the CE Calendar below.

The start of the semester is a great time to reach out to your advising team. Don't forget to look for their open hours and appointments on your Buff Portal!

[Main Campus Calendar](#)

[CE Calendar](#)

[Buff Portal](#)

## Campus and Office Closed Monday

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, campus and the Geological Sciences Office will be closed on Monday, January 19th. Have a relaxing holiday!



## Upcoming Events



### Career Services Events

CU Career Services will be hosting workshops, career fairs, and more events all throughout Spring! Take a look at their upcoming events at the button below. Even if you cannot make it to an event, stop in their office any time and get a free professional photograph taken!

[Career Services Events](#)

## Field Gear Micro-grant

The personal field equipment micro-grant program is meant to provide up to \$300 to cover pieces of personal field gear/equipment you need for the course that would represent a financial burden for you to purchase. To be eligible, you must:

1. Have GEOL as your declared major and;
2. Be enrolled in a Spring 2026 field course.



## Apply online: Spring 2026 Geological Sciences Personal Field Gear Micro-Grant Application

Please submit your application by **11:59PM on Sunday, February 1** for consideration. Please email department chair Anne Sheehan ([geochair@colorado.edu](mailto:geochair@colorado.edu)) with questions about this award.



### Introduction to Low-Light Photography

The CU Boulder Map Library is hosting an upcoming event that may be of interest to you:

**Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> | 5:00–6:00 PM**

This workshop will be led by Nolan Bonnie, a PhD candidate in the Peleg Lab, firefly researcher, and the photographer featured in the Map Library's current exhibition, *Desire Lines*. The session will introduce techniques for photographing in low-light conditions and explore how photography can bridge art and scientific research.

This event is open to anyone, and no prior photography experience is needed.

[Register Here!](#)

### Talks and Colloquium



#### Geological Sciences Colloquium Speaker

On Wednesday, January 21st, Dr. Noah Finkelstein from the Physics department at CU will be next weeks colloquium speaker. As always, snacks and drinks will be available at 12:00 and the talk will begin at 12:30. Stop by Benson 380 to listen in!

[View Colloquium Schedule](#)

### Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)

CU Boulder has an expansive history of connecting students to the academic and creative life of the campus with investments dating to 1986 with the creation of



UROP. A diverse constellation of programs now form a vibrant, welcoming community for students in all majors—offering culturally responsive mentorship, empowering networks, training and more.

UROP Virtual Events – Happening Next Week:

- Brief online sessions introducing undergraduate research and creative engagement opportunities for prospective, incoming, transfer, and current CU Boulder undergraduates (and supporting staff/faculty).
- Finding & Connecting with Potential Mentors — Jan. 20, 4:00–4:30 pm Learn how to identify potential research mentors, use CU systems effectively, and craft strong outreach messages.

Applying for UROP Student Project Grants — Jan. 26, 4:00–4:30 pm

- Overview of UROP Assistantships (supporting faculty projects) and Individual Grants (student-led projects), plus tips for competitive proposals.

*Deadline for student project grants for summer 2026 and the full academic year (2026-2027) deadline is February 13th.*

UROP

## Student Funding & Opportunities

### New Location for Opportunity Postings!

Internships, Summer programs, scholarships, and job postings have a new home! Check out our Opportunities Folder for news and postings on exciting experiences available to you.



Opportunities Folder

### Pathways Summer Programs

Browse hundreds of different Summer research experiences for undergraduates (REU) and paid internships on the Pathways to Science website! With over 600 programs to choose from, you're sure to find one that fits your interests.



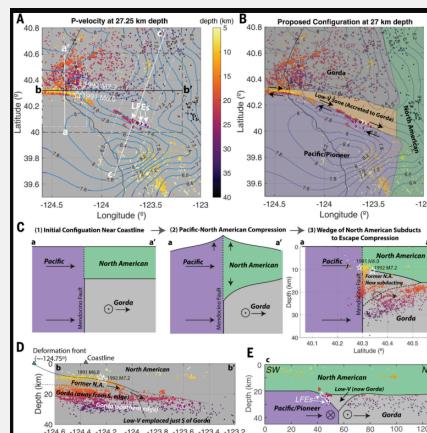
Browse Website

Colorado residents: there is a Geological Sciences scholarship which requires you answer an additional question to be considered for the award. Go to your “recommended opportunities” page after completing the general application or search for “T. Keith Marks.” Be prepared to answer the following application question: *Elaborate on your field of study and how it is applicable to the petroleum industry. Deadline to apply: March 15th, 2026.*



[Apply on Buff Portal](#)

## Department News and Features



### New Paper Alert - Feat. Kathryn Materna

A new Science paper reveals how tiny, low-frequency earthquakes help map a previously hidden slab fragment and fault structure beneath the Mendocino Triple Junction, improving our understanding of complex plate interactions at the transition between the San Andreas system and the Cascadia subduction zone. CU Boulder tectonic geodesist Kathryn Materna — whose research uses space-geodetic and seismic data to unravel deformation and fault slip — is a co-author on this study, bringing CU expertise to cutting-edge tectonic science. This work underscores the power of small-quake datasets to illuminate deep Earth processes with big implications for seismic hazard research.

[Read Here](#)

## Miss a Newsletter?

Check out past newsletters at [this link!](#)

## Just So You Know...

The undergrad newsletter will be sent out each Thursday, so check back weekly for news, job and funding opportunities, and messages from your faculty. If you have something you would like

to share in a future edition of the newsletter, please email [geoloffice@colorado.edu](mailto:geoloffice@colorado.edu).



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Benson Earth Sciences | 2200 Colorado Ave | Boulder, CO 80309 US

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