



International Affairs Program

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

IAFS Alumni Newsletter

September 2026



IAFS Mentorship Program Applications Open Now

As we begin a new academic year, we invite IAFS alumni and friends to reconnect with the program by serving as mentors in the **2026-27 IAFS Mentorship Program**. The program pairs junior and senior International Affairs majors with alumni and professionals who can share career insights, advice, and encouragement as students prepare for life after graduation.

This year's program features expanded career development modules with flexible resources to guide conversations about career exploration, goal setting, job searching, interviewing, networking, and professional growth. Mentors are typically paired with one student and meet approximately once a month (virtually or in person) from October through May.

Applications are open until **September 30**, so please visit the [IAFS Mentorship Program webpage](#) to learn more!

Questions? Email [Nancy Covey](#) - IAFS Advisory Board Chair and Mentorship Committee Chair.

IAFS
Mentorship
Program



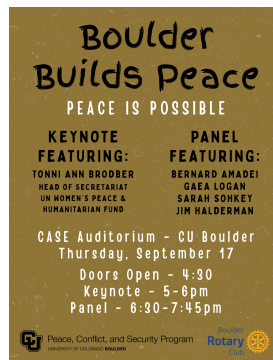


Student Spotlight: Sienna Bendall

With support from a [Global Grant scholarship](#), Sienna Bendall (IAFS '27) spent the 2025-26 academic year studying in Regensburg, Germany, where she strengthened her German, immersed herself in local culture, and built friendships that made the city feel like a second home.

From performing in a German-language theater production and running her first half marathon to traveling throughout Europe, Sienna's year abroad expanded her global perspective and created lasting connections.

Read [Sienna Bendall's Summer in Regensburg, Germany: Powered by Global Grants](#) to learn more about her experiences!



Faculty Highlight: Peace is Possible

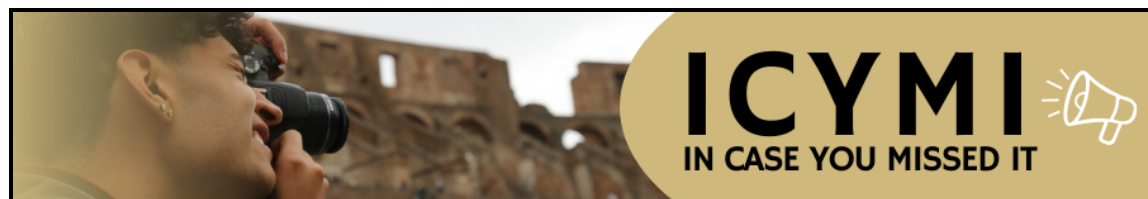
PACS Director [Michael English](#) and IAFS Faculty Committee member [Sarah Wilson Sokhey](#) (Political Science) will participate in [Peace Is Possible](#), the 2026 Boulder Builds Peace keynote and panel on September 17. English will moderate the keynote address, while Sokhey will join the panel to discuss citizen engagement and peacebuilding.

The Peace is Possible event is one of many events scheduled during the [Boulder Builds Peace Week](#).

Faculty Highlight: Chernobyl, 40 years later

Forty years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, CU Boulder political scientist and IAFS Faculty Committee member [Sarah Wilson Sokhey](#) reflects on its lasting political, environmental, and human consequences. She discusses how government secrecy deepened the crisis and why Chernobyl's lessons about nuclear risk, public trust, and cross-border impacts remain relevant today.

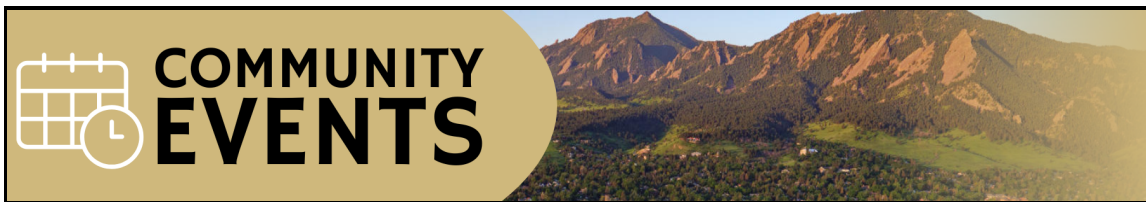
Read more in the [Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine article](#).



2027 Conference on World Affairs

The [Conference on World Affairs](#) (CWA) returns the week of April 4, 2027, bringing speakers and conversations from across disciplines to CU Boulder.

Alumni and community members can [get involved now](#) by volunteering with a CWA planning committee and helping shape conference topics and speakers.



Across the Atlantic: Ukraine, Russia, and the Future of Europe

September 10, 2026 – 6:00-8:00pm
Hosted by [World Denver](#)

Dollars, Diseases, and Diplomacy: The Future of Global Health Security

September 16, 2026 – 5:00-8:30pm
Hosted by [Denver Council on Foreign Relations](#)

Peace is Possible

Part of the [2026 Boulder Builds Peace Week](#)
September 17 - 5:00-7:45pm
Hosted by [PACS](#) and [Boulder Rotary Club](#)

Have news to share?

Do you have stories to share or know of internships, jobs or events that may interest IAFS alumni or students? Email iafs@colorado.edu and let us know!

Check out our [Alumni Spotlight](#) and [Internship and Job Opportunities](#) pages for updates.

Donate to IAFS General Fund

Donate to IAFS Global Grants



Be inspired. Be involved. Be international.

Be Boulder.

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