International Affairs Program

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

IAFS Alumni Newsletter

October 2026



A Snapshot of IAFS - Fall 2026

Fall is well underway, and we're excited to share a quick snapshot of the IAFS community this semester!

IAFS currently includes **430 majors** and **120 minors**, making us the **11th-largest major** in the College of Arts and Sciences. Our students continue to make the most of the interdisciplinary nature of IAFS: **just over half** are pursuing an additional major and/or minor, including nearly **1 in 4** who are double majors, with second majors representing **23 different fields**. IAFS students are also active across campus through organizations such as student government, IAFS Club, Model United Nations, the Conference on World Affairs, and more.

Through our alumni spotlights and LinkedIn community, we love seeing the many directions our graduates take their IAFS experience and the ways they stay connected and give back. This fall, **17 mentors** are connecting with **22 IAFS students** through the **IAFS Mentorship Program**, sharing their experience and helping students explore their own academic and professional paths.

Our IAFS Faculty Committee reflects the interdisciplinary reach of the program, with members teaching across CU Boulder on topics including international finance, decolonization, global Islam, political geography, migration, gender and development, and global health. Faculty also contribute beyond the classroom through leadership of the Conference on World Affairs and Studio Lab's undergraduate research initiatives.

This snapshot offers just a glimpse of the broader IAFS community - from **students** learning and leading across CU Boulder, to **faculty** bringing global

perspectives and expertise into the classroom, to **alumni** putting their IAFS education to work around the world.

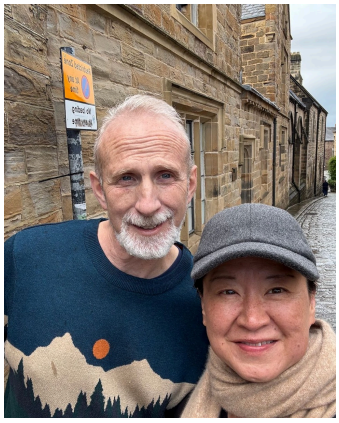


Student Spotlight: Korbin Mendenhall



IAFS student and Global Grant recipient Korbin Mendenhall is spending Fall 2026 at the University of Wollongong in Australia, where coursework, cultural experiences, and new friendships are broadening his global perspective. From discussing current global events with Australian and international classmates to exploring Sydney, Jervis Bay, and the Gold Coast, Korbin is making the most of his semester abroad.

Read Wonders of Wolllongong: Korbin Mendenhall's Global Grants Adventure to learn how his experiences in and beyond the classroom are deepening his International Affairs studies and shaping the way he sees the world.



Alumni Highlight: Dan Jassem (IAFS '91)

From responding to international crises and negotiating diplomatic issues abroad to advising a four-star Air Force general, Dan Jassem's 22-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service took him around the world.

Read From CU Boulder to a Career in Diplomacy: Dan Jassem (IAFS '91) to learn about the IAFS experiences that sparked his interest in diplomacy, memorable moments from his Foreign Service career, and what brought him back home to Colorado.

Faculty Highlight: Lauren Collins



Congratulations to IAFS alumna and CU Boulder faculty member Lauren Collins on her appointment as Editor of Education About Asia (EAA), the peer-reviewed teaching journal of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS). Collins, who earned her B.A. in International Affairs from CU Boulder, is currently the Asian Studies Program Director and Teaching Assistant Professor with the Center for Asian Studies (CAS).

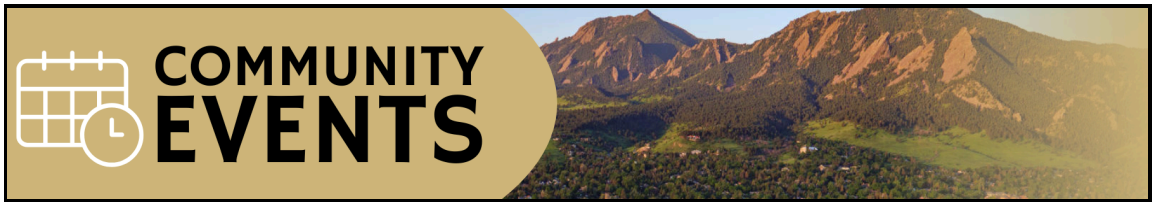
Read the full announcement from the Association for Asian Studies (AAS).



New Home for the International Affairs Journal (IAJ)

The International Affairs Journal (IAJ) has a new permanent home on CU Scholar, CU Boulder's institutional repository.

Explore all five volumes and individual student articles in the IAJ Archive, where each article now has its own permanent, citable link.



CU Boulder Division of Social Sciences Interdisciplinary Speaker Event: Immigration Policy

October 6, 2026 – 3:30-5:30pm

World Denver: A Century of Service

October 13, 2026 – 6:00-8:00pm
Hosted by World Denver

The Future of Space Policy Forum and Expo

October 15, 2026 – 4:30-8:30pm
Hosted by Denver Council on Foreign Relations (DCFR)

CU Boulder Leo Hill Leadership Speaker Series: Bill Nye

November 4, 2026 – 7:30pm
Tickets on Sale - October 6

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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