

2014-2015



## CLA CONNECTIONS

Colorado State University  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS







GILLMORE

WE ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO  
DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS



AMONG THE MANY REASONS TO CELEBRATE COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY IS THE RAM WAY OF BEING IN THE WORLD. IN AN AGE OF CELEBRITY, RAMS PRESENT THEMSELVES DIFFERENTLY. STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND ALUMNI FROM THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS EXEMPLIFY THIS APPROACH TO LIFE.

#### RAM IN THE NFL

A liberal arts major and extraordinary tight end on the Rams football team, Crockett Gillmore was drafted in the third round of the 2014 NFL draft by the Baltimore Ravens. A first-team Mountain West All-Conference selection, Crockett played in the East-West Shrine Game as well as the Senior Bowl, where he led all receivers with 5 receptions for 61 yards and a touchdown. His 533 receiving yards in 2013 were the third-most by a CSU tight end in a single season. Crockett and fellow Ram draftee, center Weston Richburg, both hail from the small town of Bushland, Texas.

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# WE ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS



**SHEAHAN**

## UNDERGRADUATE CREATES SCHOLARSHIP

As a double-major in Spanish and business administration, Madeleine Sheahan's connectedness to CSU's campus is multi-dimensional. In an act inspired by President Tony Frank's speech during the Green and Gold Gala, Madeleine became a student-donor when she created the Esperanza Scholarship in the spring of 2014. Dr. Frank's speech was centered on the theme of hope and the role that it has played in overcoming obstacles throughout CSU's history. Benefitting students in the College of Liberal Arts, the Esperanza Scholarship, which translates to "hope" from the Spanish language, speaks to the extraordinary avenues and intentions that students find to give back to this institution. Madeleine will graduate in the spring of 2015 after achieving not only dual degrees, but also holding leadership roles within Greek Life and as a Presidential Ambassador.



**HEMMELGARN**

## TRANSFORMING TRAGEDY INTO COMMITMENT

Carole Lenz Hemmelgarn (speech communication 1986) has done extraordinary things in memory of her daughter Alyssa who passed away at age nine of sepsis from a hospital-acquired infection. Carole's volunteer activities are on two fronts. One is health-care advocacy to help prevent future medical mistakes. In that role, Carole serves on the Patient Safety Advisory Council for MedStar Health as well as speaks at conferences and to organizations about this issue. Carole and her husband Joe also created the Alyssa Cares Foundation, which puts "books into the hands and homes of children in need" in the Denver area with a goal of creating in these young people a passion for literacy. To date the foundation has given away nearly 40,000 books.



**STRAAYER**

## LIFETIME DEVOTED TO ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP

Since his start at CSU, Dr. John Straayer has taught courses that span international political systems and varied demographics. All the while, he has invited students to explore the necessity of politics and the role of informed citizenship therein. As the director of the Legislative Internship Program, Dr. Straayer pairs junior and senior undergraduate students with legislators at the Capitol Building in Denver during the spring semester. Over 900 students from CSU have worked alongside House and Senate members through this program that offers authentic exposure to political life. Alumni of the program praise what they learned as legislative interns and the ways in which the experience enriched their professional lives. Dr. Straayer's extraordinary commitment has had a significant impact on the lives of many individuals.





### TRIUMPH IN AFTERMATH OF DISASTER

Co-director of the Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis, Dr. Lori Peek's extraordinary research focuses on socially vulnerable populations—including children, women, racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities—in disasters. She and her research associates have studied populations affected by 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, the tornado in Joplin, Missouri, the Slave Lake fire in Canada; the BP oil spill on the Gulf Coast, and the 2011 earthquake in New Zealand. Dr. Peek, an associate professor of sociology, recently received the President's Award from the Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA) for her work.

### DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

Three liberal arts faculty members have been named University Distinguished Professors, and each has an extraordinary international reputation in his respective field. Emeritus professor Dr. Holmes Rolston is widely known as the "father" of the field of environmental ethics and philosophy. Harley-riding philosophy professor Dr. Bernard Rollin flies all over the world giving talks on animal rights and the humane treatment of animals. Prof. Phil Risbeck is a graphic artist whose work is part of permanent collections in the United States, Japan and Europe and has appeared in one-artist shows from Moscow to Paris and Havana.



### CREATING COMMUNITY

Millete Birhanemaskel (journalism 2002; MBA 2011) operates a financial planning practice and manages investments in the Denver area. She also contributes to community in extraordinary ways. Millete founded the Ethiopian Community Center, which serves immigrants from Ethiopia as well as other countries. The Center's goal is to support immigrants' efforts "to become self-sufficient and contributing members of society in their new country." The Center offers ESL and computer courses, translation and interpretation services, career counseling, and health services, among other things. Millete also has served on the Colorado Economic Development Council as well as the boards of directors for Project Education Sudan and Denver Sister Cities International.

### DOING GREAT THINGS

Erin Mross (English, history, liberal arts 2014) completed three majors and was engaged in a number of service and other activities, including the President's Leadership Program, Presidential Ambassadors and staff photographer for the Collegian. In an extraordinary speech she gave last spring, Erin spoke of the unseen threads that connect people and focused on the connection between two young women, both of whom grew up in Fort Collins and were accepted to Colorado State. One, Erin herself, received a scholarship established in the memory of the other, Kayla Marie Adsit, who died the summer following high school graduation. Erin concluded by thanking Kayla's parents and saying, "I know that Kayla would have loved her time at CSU, as I have loved mine. I am thankful her thread continues to reach out and change lives. To all the donors in the room, thank you for sinking your thread into CSU and believing in the students of this institution. Together we can, and will, do great things." Indeed, we shall. •







PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID KING

# YOU FIND COLLEGE LIBERAL ARTS ALUMNI IN THE MOST UNUSUAL PLACES

## THE SHED IN SANTA FE

This iconic, award-winning Mexican restaurant located just off the Plaza is owned and operated by Courtney Carswell (Spanish 1967), his wife and children. The Shed was listed in 2013 as one of the 32 best Mexican restaurants in the United States by Travel & Leisure.

Carswell's parents moved to Santa Fe in the late 1940s, learned New Mexican cooking from their neighbors, and opened a very small restaurant in, literally, a shed located in Burro Alley. In 1960 they moved the restaurant to its current location on Palace

Avenue, where over the years it has developed an international reputation for Santa Fe charm, original art, and great enchiladas and margaritas. A gracious host and delightful storyteller, Courtney is a significant part of that charm.

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# YOU FIND COLLEGE LIBERAL ARTS **ALUMNI** IN THE MOST UNUSUAL PLACES

## **OPERA IN PRAGUE**

Mezzo-soprano Chaazi Munyanya, (music 2012) performed in Janacek's opera, "The Diary of the One Who Disappeared," in the Czech Republic. Chosen the "Singer of the Year" while at Colorado State, Chaazi currently is pursuing a graduate degree at the University of North Texas. She had starring roles in operas at both institutions and also landed a young artist contract with the Wolf Trap Opera Company in the summer of 2013.

## **SIDELINES AT DENVER BRONCOS' GAMES**

Finally achieving her dream to become a Broncos' cheerleader during her senior year, Angela Wood (dance 2014) cheered for the Broncos during their Super Bowl season. The Broncos cheerleaders also serve as ambassadors in the community. Angela's favorite activity this past year was the "Be Beautiful Be Yourself" fashion show, a fundraising event for the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, where she escorted individuals with Down syndrome on the runway.

## **BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO**

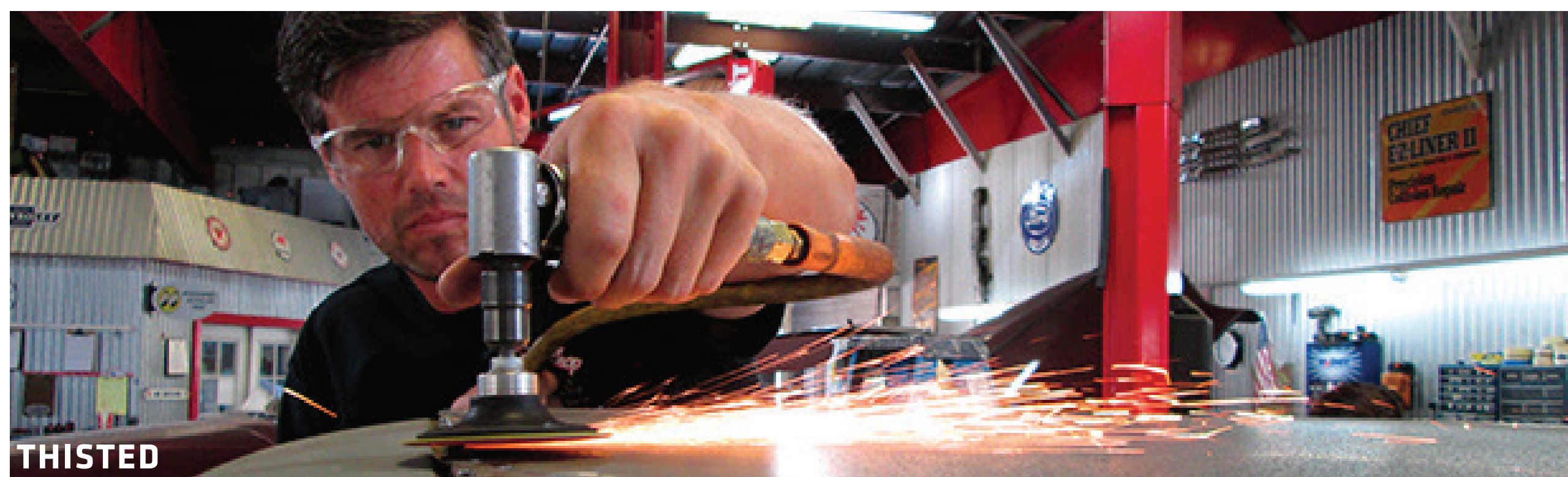
Bilingual alumni Tucker Lehman (theatre 2014) and Anthony Vessels (theatre 2014) were among the leaders in a summer theatre camp in Todos Santos, a small town designated a Pueblo Mágico due to its natural, cultural and historical uniqueness. The bilingual and bi-cultural theatre program organized by Colorado State involved children from the ages of seven to twelve, one-third from Colorado and two-thirds from after school programs and an orphanage in Todos Santos.

## **DUBAI**

Former president of the CSU Arabic Club, Anna Meenan (international studies and technical journalism 2011) was recently named editor for the News Services Group Middle East in United Arab Emirates. Her previous positions in UAE were as a teacher at Sharjah American International School and a marketing and public relations manager for TechWise.

## **DISCOVERY CHANNEL**

Parlaying his passion for classic cars into a role on "Rods N Wheels," Jeff Thisted (speech communication 1990) plays a mechanic at Da Rod Shop, where he works on vintage cars and hot rods and interacts with the interesting people who own them. The Discovery Channel show is set in the heart of Southern California's car culture, Simi Valley.







DICK



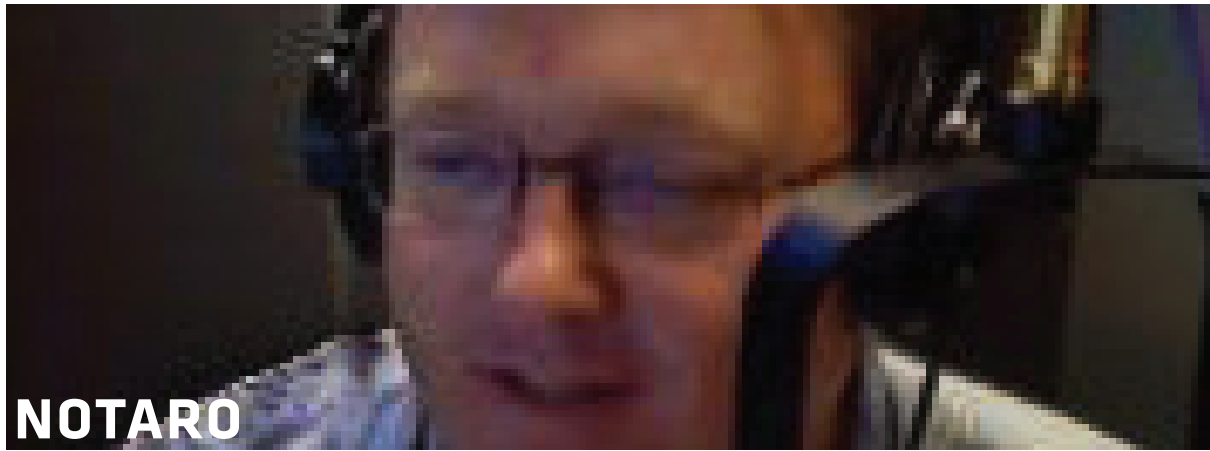
REED



DEFRIES



KIMBERLIN



NOTARO



DOE

NEAR PARIS

A professor at Mulhouse University in France, Jennifer Dick (English MFA 1999) is a poet and translator. She served as editor of the international literature and arts journal, Upstairs at Duroc, and is co-director of the international writing group Ivy Writers. She also formed a four-voice poetry performance group called “Quadriphonics,” which drew a full house at each of its events.

GRAND CANYON

David Reed (French 1997) is the lead guide for Great Western Adventure Company in Sedona, Arizona. The company does daily tours of the Grand Canyon. David’s days are spent regaling visitors with facts and stories about the Grand Canyon while enjoying its extraordinary natural beauty. He also is known for his wonderful photographs of the Canyon.

HONOLULU.

A third generation Colorado State graduate, Tamar deFries (ethnic studies certificate 1997) lives in her native Hawaii where she works with Pacific Growth Associates, offering investment banking and development services. Her grandfather graduated in 1932, when it was Colorado Agricultural College; her father graduated in 1963 and played football for the Rams. Her daughter Alexis currently is a student at CSU.

LONDON

While she was on campus, Miranda Kimberlin (art 2014) would always have her digital camera slung around her shoulder, and that has not changed in her first foray into professionalism. During the summer after graduation, Miranda took her artistic endeavors into the landscapes of London, where she worked as an apprentice for a photographer and videographer, Rosie Collins.

BEHIND A MICROPHONE

Sports talk show host Renaud Notaro (liberal arts 1995) is on Mile High Sports Radio FM 94.1 in Denver. His popular show, “RenKnowItAll” involves wide-ranging discussions, mostly about sports. Renaud, an avid “tweeter,” was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and spent time in New Orleans.

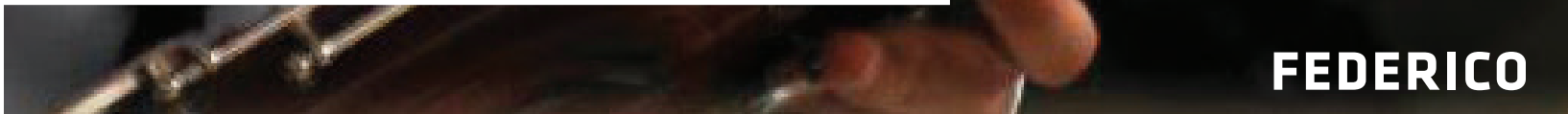
FORT COLLINS

Firefighter Steve Doe (English 2006) specializes in hazardous materials. He has diffused suspicious substances on the CSU campus including a worrisome white powder that arrived without appropriate labeling but turned out to be powdered sugar sent as a gift from an individual in the Middle East to his former teacher.



NAPLES

A talented bassoonist, Tony Federico (music 2011) currently plays with the United States Naval Forces Europe Band, which is stationed in Italy. The band performs throughout Europe, Africa and Western Asia.



FEDERICO



# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
HONOR ALUMNI

**CARY GRIFFIN  
& TOM SUBER**

GRIFFIN: B.A. '77,  
TECHNICAL JOURNALISM  
SUBER: B.A. '75, HISTORY

Cary Griffin and Tom Suber first met at CSU's Ingersoll Hall in 1973. Ms. Griffin was studying journalism and Mr. Suber was majoring in history with an Asian studies minor. After going their separate ways in 1975 when both were congressional interns, they met again 10 years later, and married in 1986. They reside in Washington, D.C., and have two sons, ages 22 and 17.

In 1989, Ms. Griffin started her own marketing communications company in Washington, D.C. Her award-winning firm has been in business more than 25 years and is one of a handful of marketing communications firms to specialize in the building industry. In 1995, Mr. Suber was hired as president of the newly-formed U.S. Dairy Export Council, a trade association developing export markets for U.S. dairy processors and farmers, where he continues to serve. He also chairs a U.S. government trade advisory committee and is on the board of directors for the Dairy Research Institute, the Food & Agricultural Export Alliance, and Commonwealth Academy.

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**CHARLES A. LORY  
PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD  
JEAN SUTHERLAND**  
  
**PH.D., M.A. '72, ENGLISH**



Jean Sutherland's life has been a dedication to home, family, and an extended, multi-faceted, unconventional teaching, public service, and philanthropic career.

In 1993, her husband Tom's work took Dr. Sutherland to the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. Here, her commitment to the English as a Second Language program made her life meaningful when her husband was abducted and held as a hostage for more than six years. Throughout these years, partnering with a Lebanese-American businessman, she helped effect a dialog channel between the American government and Hezbollah, operating to ease tensions until all hostages, including her husband, had been released.

In 2001, her life changed direction with a compensatory award for her husband's captivity, with which they funded the Sutherland Family Foundation. The Foundation gives them the privilege of giving back to their Colorado communities for their tenacious caring and support over the hostage years, which was a lifeline to the Sutherlands and their three daughters, Ann, Kit, and Joan.



**GRADUATE OF THE LAST  
DECADE (GOLD) AWARD  
ASHLEY COLBURN**  
  
**B.A. '08, JOURNALISM  
AND TECHNICAL  
COMMUNICATION**



Ashley Colburn's desire to travel started at an early age and began in earnest when she studied for a semester in Spain. During her college years, she interned at ABC in Los Angeles, was an editor for the San Diego County Fair newsletter for two summers, and hosted Ecofishing Adventures on the Outdoor Channel, The Sportsman Channel, and FOX Sports West. Ms. Colburn began her career as a host, producer, and writer for WealthTV in 2009. She produced her first travel show "WOW Croatia!," which was awarded Croatia's Golden Pen Award (Best U.S. Media) and won an Emmy in 2010. Following her success with the Croatia show, Ms. Colburn created "Takeoff with Ashley Colburn," a travel series that premiered in 2010 on WealthTV and took her to over 25 countries on six continents over two seasons.

Since late 2011 Ms. Colburn has run her own production company, Ashley Colburn Productions, with the aim of "Finding the Wonder in the World: Wonderful People. Wonderful Cultures. Wonderful History."

She received her second Emmy in 2012 for her work in "Wonders of the World: Machu Picchu."



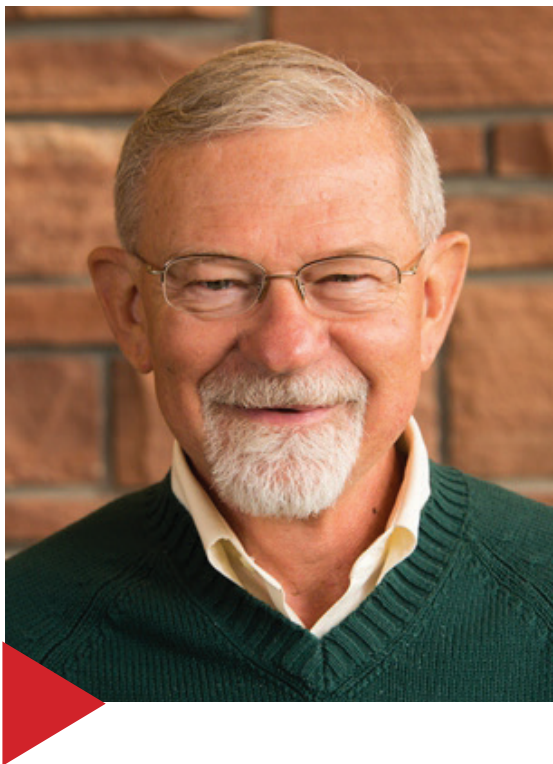
**COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS  
HONOR ALUMNUS  
DAVID B. DANBOM**  
  
**PH.D., B.A. '69,  
HISTORY**



Dave Danbom has written four of his six books on American agriculture and rural life, becoming what Pulitzer-Prize-winning historian David Kennedy calls, "the foremost historian of rural America." His first book, *The Resisted Revolution: Urban America and the Industrialization of Agriculture, 1900-1930*, remains one of the most cited works in the field, and *Born in the Country: A History of Rural America*, has been characterized as "the best, most thoughtful, and most comprehensive" work of its kind. Dr. Danbom has received numerous awards for his work, and in 1990 he was elected president of the Agricultural History Society.

At North Dakota State University, Dr. Danbom won a number of awards for teaching and public service. He was named Fargo Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Professor, and in 1990 was chosen as North Dakota Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. He also played an active role in his community, serving on the Mayor's Committee for Downtown Redevelopment in Fargo and on the city's Historic Preservation and Human Relations commissions. He also wrote more than 100 op-ed columns for the *Fargo Forum* newspaper. Dr. Danbom and Karen moved to Loveland in 2011. They have two children, Elizabeth and Mark.





**CHARLES A. LORY**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD**  
**DR. LOREN W. CRABTREE**

**FORMER PROVOST  
AND ACADEMIC  
VICE PRESIDENT,  
COLORADO STATE  
UNIVERSITY, 1997-2001**

**FORMER DEAN  
OF THE COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS, 1991-1997**

Dr. Loren Crabtree received his training at the University of Minnesota in history and Asian studies. He has taught and served as an administrator at five institutions during a career spanning nearly 50 years. The bulk of his career—34 years— was spent at Colorado State University, where he taught in the history department, was dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and ultimately provost/academic vice president. He then served as chancellor of the University of Tennessee and Distinguished Professor of History, and most recently he was interim president of the Institute for Shipboard Education with Semester at Sea.

As a CSU administrator, Dr. Crabtree instituted programs to internationalize the university, initiated planning that eventually culminated in CSU’s marvelous University Center for the Arts, led general education reforms, and championed interdisciplinary research and teaching.

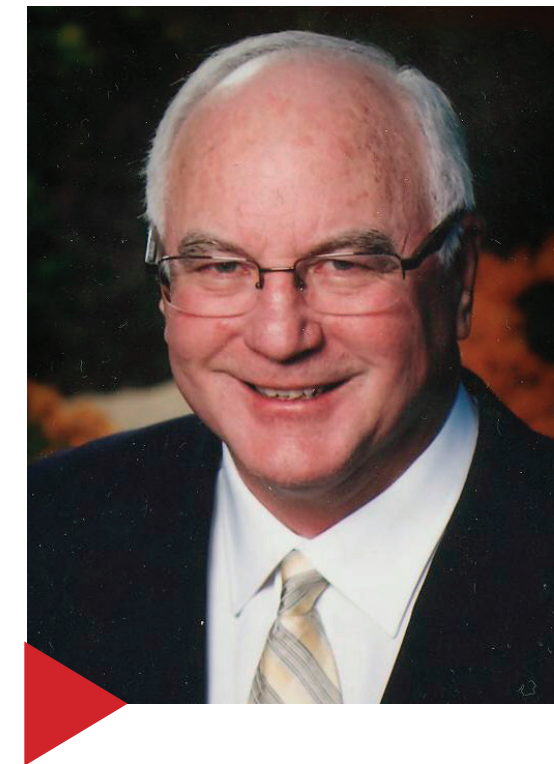


**JIM AND NADINE  
HENRY AWARD**  
**JOHN HIRN**

**B.A. '93, HISTORY**

John Hirn’s passion rests with CSU athletic history. As a student, Mr. Hirn fell in love with CSU athletics during his freshman year when the men’s basketball team won their second consecutive WAC championship and the football team won the 1990 Freedom Bowl. In 2008, Mr. Hirn published the book Aggies to Rams: The History of Football at Colorado State University. This book is the first definitive history of football and all athletics at CSU with more than 600 photos and 448 pages celebrating CSU football history. Sales are donated to the CSU Athletic Scholarship fund.

In 2013 Mr. Hirn completed a two-year project helping to update Moby Arena with a new hall of fame display along with an interactive display featuring biographies of all 150 inductees in the CSU Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Hirn spent countless hours collecting artifacts, photos, stories, and data for the display on the south concourse of Moby Arena and maintains an archive of CSU athletic history.



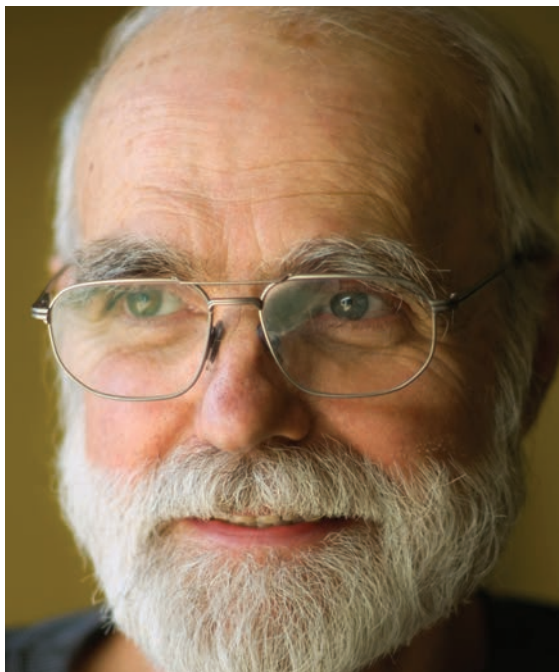
**DISTINGUISHED  
ATHLETIC AWARD**  
**JAMES R. SMITH**

**M.S., B.A. '71,  
ECONOMICS  
AND BUSINESS**

James Smith has been playing, watching, or supporting CSU Athletics for 50 years. In 1963, Mr. Smith joined the football team as a walk-on, playing both tight end and offensive guard. Over the years, he has provided significant amounts of his time and financial investment to create many important elements within the Department of Athletics, including the Former Athletes Association and the CSU Sports Hall of Fame.

Outside of Athletics, Mr. Smith’s involvement with Colorado State includes serving on the CSU Development Council for nine years, including two years as chairperson, member of the College of Business Entrepreneurship Board, Global Leadership Council, and President’s Advisory Committee.





**DISTINGUISHED  
FACULTY AWARD  
PHIL RISBECK**

**PROFESSOR OF  
GRAPHIC DESIGN,  
DEPARTMENT  
OF ART AND  
ART HISTORY**

Phil Risbeck is considered an international leader in the field of graphic design. A founder of CSU’s Colorado International Invitational Poster Exhibition (CIPE) in 1979, Professor Risbeck brought international attention to the design community in Fort Collins. CIPE is considered one of the finest contemporary poster exhibitions in the world today.

His graphic design classes combine design with service-learning opportunities, partnering with organizations around the state. His passion for teaching is exemplified by the numerous awards his students have received. In 2012, Professor Risbeck was named University Distinguished Professor, the highest academic recognition awarded by the university.



**GRADUATE OF THE LAST  
DECADE (GOLD) AWARD  
AARON ANTHONY MADONNA  
& JUWON MELVIN**

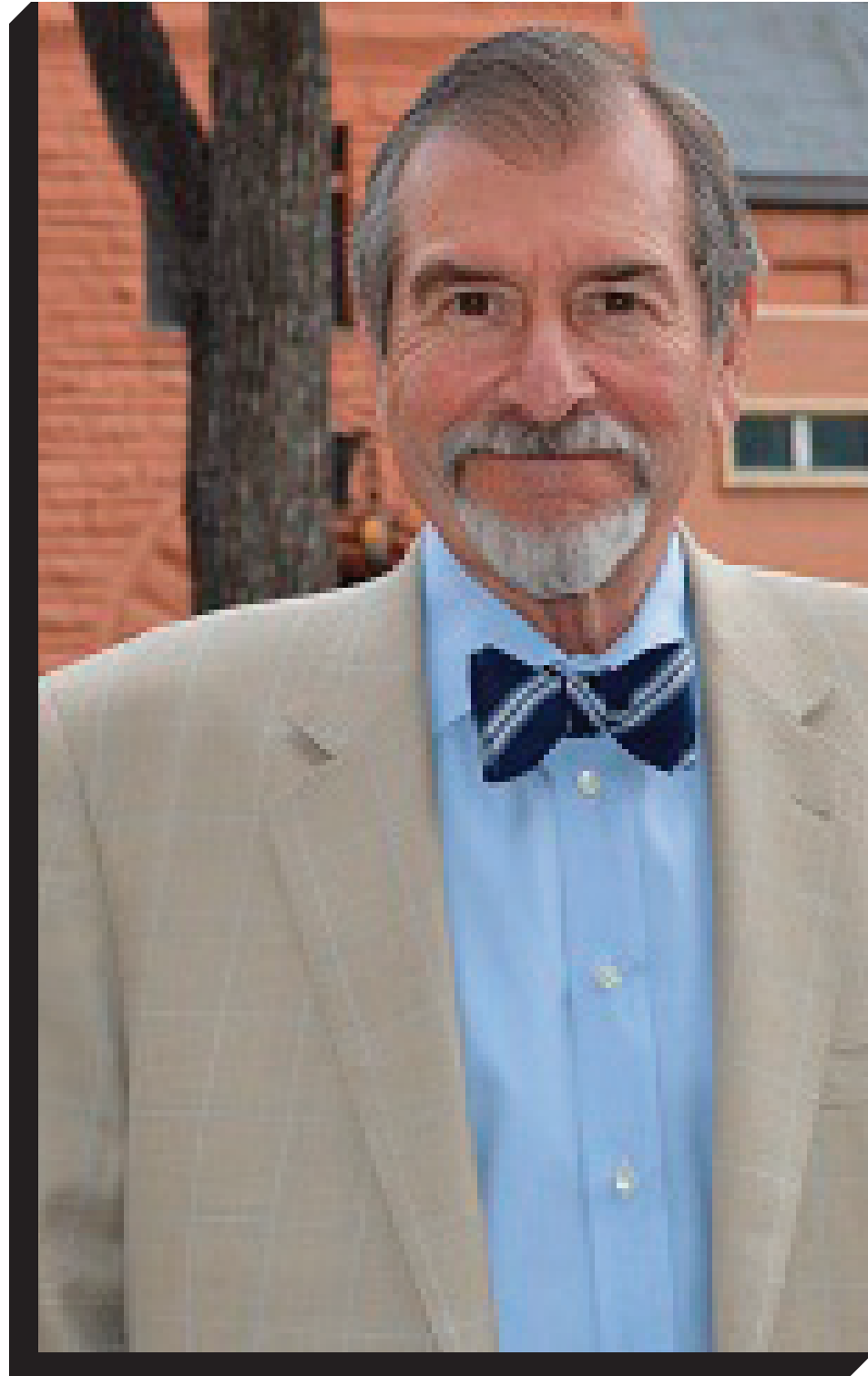
**MADONNA: B.A. '08, SOCIOLOGY  
MELVIN: B.S. '08, BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION**

In 2007, Aaron Madonna and Juwon Melvin founded DreamReel Media. Together, they have published two books, *Help! IDK What I Want To Do With My Life* and *Destination College: Achieve Your Dream*. Published in 2010, both books help young adults envision the life they want for themselves.

As co-founders of LifeSoap Company, they work to bring drinkable water to developing countries through the sale of natural skin care products. Mr. Melvin and Mr. Madonna have traveled throughout Central America creating valuable and sustainable partnerships with local villages and schools. In just three years, LifeSoap has helped more than 1,200 school children access clean water. Since the company has launched, LifeSoap has been featured in *O Magazine*, *Self*, *5280*, *the Denver Post*, and *Denver 9News*.



# ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



**JUDGE DENNIS GRAHAM** (philosophy 1968) received the Denver Bar Association's 2014 award for Judicial Excellence. He was appointed to the Colorado Court of Appeals in 2002 and currently serves as chair of the Colorado Judicial Ethics Advisory Board as well as the Judicial Personnel Board.



**DR. CHERYL RICHARDS** (speech communication 1990) is CEO and Regional Dean for Northeastern University in Charlotte, North Carolina. She was named the 2014 Woman of the Year at a recent event sponsored by *the Mecklenburg Times* that honored the region's "50 Most Influential Women."

## PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS



*Colorado Springs Gazette* Managing Editor **JOANNA BEAN** (technical journalism 1989) supervised a team that won a 2014 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting. Reporter David Phillips bylined the story about combat veterans losing military benefits and was quoted in the *Gazette* about Bean's contributions. "Without her guts, without her smarts, none of this would have ever happened... she's a real credit to journalism," Phillips said.



*Guardian US Interactive* Editor **GABRIEL DANCE** (journalism and technical communication 2005) earned the 2014 Public Service Pulitzer with a team that exposed the National Security Agency's extensive secret surveillance program. Dance is now focusing on the criminal justice system as managing editor of The Marshall Project, a new nonprofit news venture.



# ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

## PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS



**LIZ SPAYD** (technical journalism 1981) became editor-in-chief of the *Columbia Journalism Review*, a magazine that covers the journalism profession and is tied to Columbia University, home of the Pulitzer program. Spayd's new job follows a 25-year career at the *Washington Post*, where her staff won four Pulitzers when she was national editor, and even more when she was managing editor.

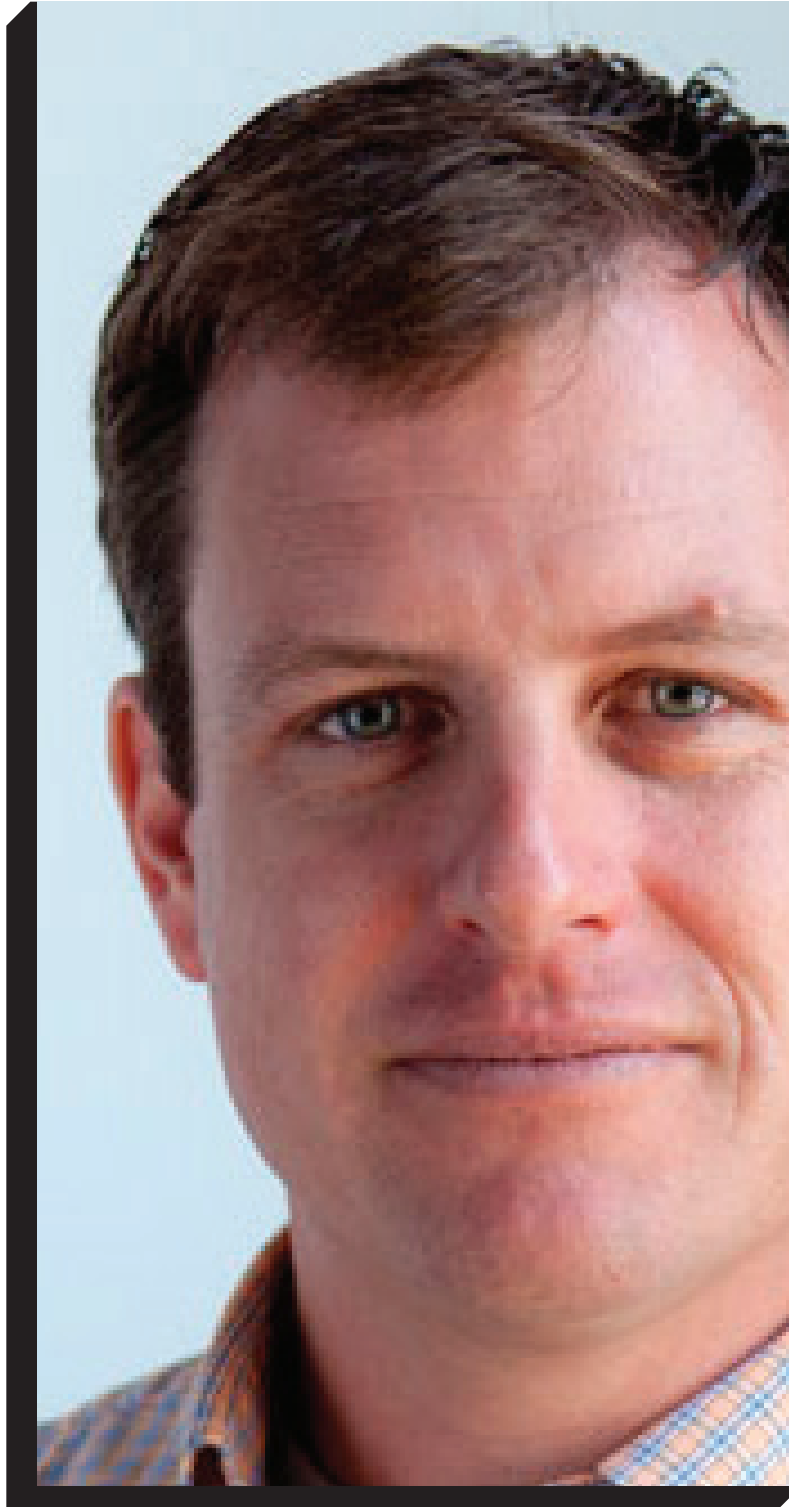


**DENVER POST** Director of Newsroom Operations Linda (Carpio) Shapley (speech communication 1992) and the rest of the Post staff, including R.J. Sangosti (Art 2001), Kris Browning-Blas (technical journalism 1985), Carlos Illescas (technical journalism 1991), Allison Sherry (technical journalism 2000), and CSU interns Jason Pohl and Erin Udell earned a 2013 Breaking News Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Aurora theater shootings.

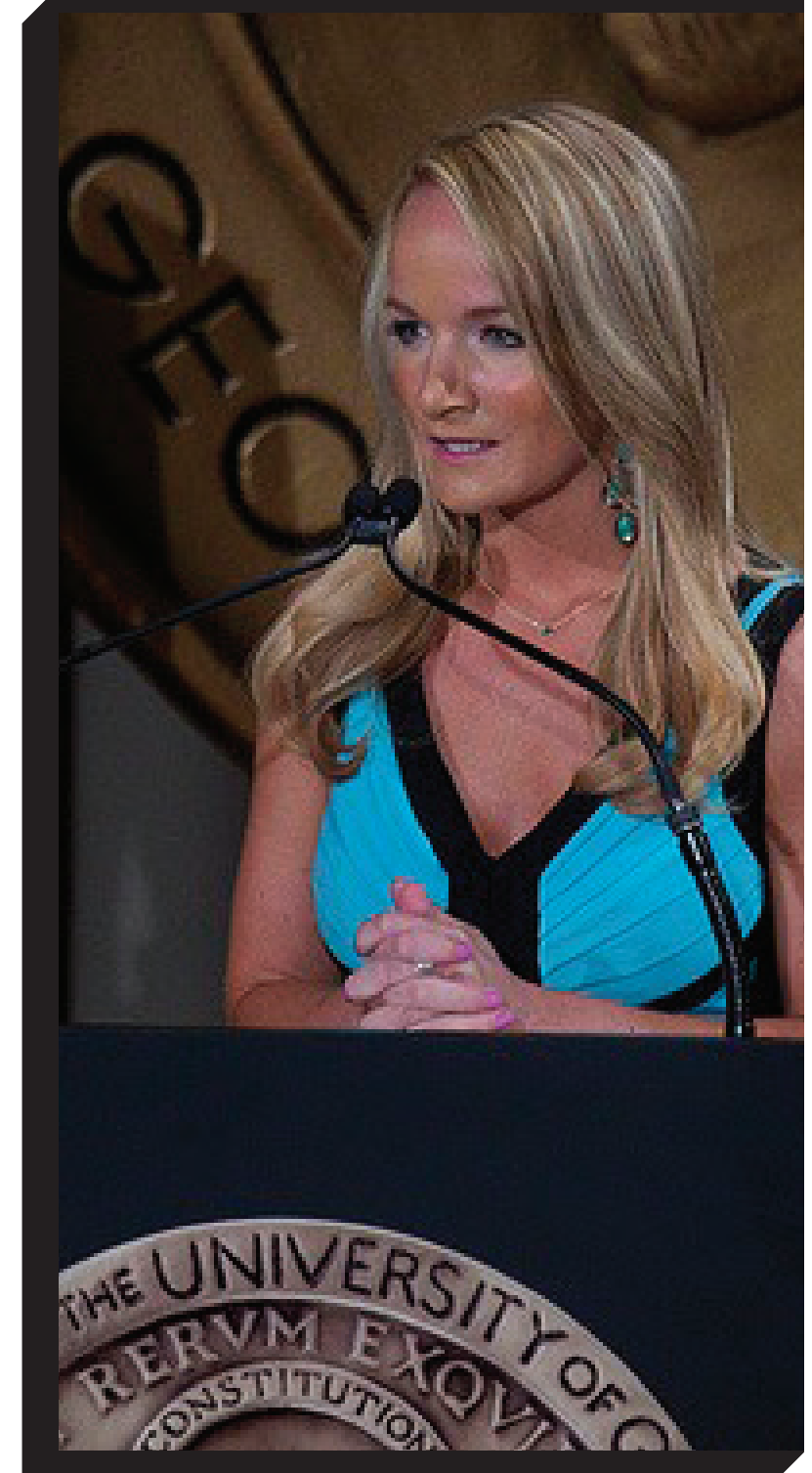


Pulitzer winner **DAVID FREED** (technical journalism 1976) returned to campus to teach for the fall semester. Freed earned one Pulitzer, and was a finalist for another while an investigative reporter for the *L.A. Times*. He then became a successful Hollywood scriptwriter and novelist "Without her guts, without her smarts, none of this would have ever happened...she's a real credit to journalism," Phillips said.

## PEABODY AWARD WINNERS



Photojournalist **IAIN MONTGOMERY** (technical journalism 2000) of WTVF-TV in Nashville, Tennessee, won a 2014 George Foster Peabody Award for work with an investigative team that reported on questionable Tennessee state government contracts.



Reporter **AMANDA KOST** (journalism and technical communication 2007) and Executive Producer Jon Stone (technical journalism 2002) of KMGH-TV in Denver worked on a team that won a 2013 Peabody Award and other honors for a series of television news reports about the cause of the 2012 Lower North Fork Fire in Colorado.



# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



## CARCASSON NAMED COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR

Martin Carcasson, associate professor in the communication studies department, was named the 2013-14 Communicator of the Year by the Colorado School Public Relations Association. On May 2, 2014, Carcasson accepted a plaque from COSPRA at the Denver Botanic Gardens. The award is given to a nominated individual or organization that exhibits leadership and innovation throughout their communication efforts with diverse Colorado audiences. Carcasson is widely recognized for the formation of the Center for Public Deliberation.



## NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT GRANT SPELLS OPPORTUNITY FOR FORT COLLINS

The Colorado State University Writing Project and the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery have been awarded a prestigious Intersections grant from the National Writing Project (NWP) and the Association of Science-Technology Centers. The grant will support the design of STEM programs in informal settings that integrate science and literacy practices for a diverse range of local youth and educators.

Funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Intersections initiative works to address the critical need for more programming that integrates two very important areas of curriculum — science and literacy — with a strong commitment to expanding access for all youth to high-quality science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) literacy education. English professors Cindy O'Donnell-Allen and Antero Garcia represent the College of Liberal Arts on the project.



## UNNITHAN NAMED PRESIDENT OF WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

At the 56th annual Western Social Science Association conference, sociology professor N. Prabha Unnithan assumed the role of WSSA president. An organization based in interdisciplinary scholarship, the WSSA facilitates engagement of social scientists hailing from the western United States, Canada, and Mexico. During his time as president, Unnithan plans to focus on growing the participating demographic to increase the number of students and scholars in WSSA.



## ORSI TELLS FIRST TALES OF RENOWNED EXPLORER IN 60 YEARS

As an early American explorer, Zebulon Pike set out with his team in the early 1800s to document the unexplored south on the Pike Expedition. Ironically, the discoveries made by Pike were left undocumented until the recent publishing of Jared Orsi's book, *Citizen Explorer: The Life of Zebulon Pike*.

Associate professor in the history department at Colorado State University, Orsi unearths the findings and intricacies from Pike's explorations using new methods in environmental and cultural history. During his most famed expedition, Pike set out to explore the Louisiana Territory and confusion over location led him and his team to discover the mountain in the Front Range now known as Pike's Peak.



## CELEBRATE! CSU AWARDS

Celebrate! CSU Awards honor the accomplishments in teaching, research, and service of CSU students, alumni, administrative professionals, and state classified staff. Mako Beecken, foreign languages & literatures, received the Multi-Ethnic Distinguished Service Award, which honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their professions and the multi-ethnic community. The Outstanding Achievement Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in job skills and/or service to the University by state classified personnel, was awarded to Jourdan Jiruska, foreign languages & literatures. The Jack E. Cermak Outstanding Advisor Award was presented to Elizabeth Terry, College of Liberal Arts, for excellence in student advising.



# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



## DIFFRIENT NAMED TO MORGAN CHAIR

Scott Diffrient, associate professor of film and media studies in the Department of Communication Studies, was named the William E. Morgan Endowed Chair of Liberal Arts in September 2013 for his continued research on human rights films and film festivals. The William E. Morgan Endowed Chair serves a 3-year term and receives \$50,000 in funding each year.

Diffrient has been at Colorado State University for 7 years and teaches courses in film and television. His undergraduate courses focus on topics such as evaluating contemporary film, genres in television and film, directors, and historical periods. He teaches graduate courses in media audiences and industries.



## DAUM AND GORELIK NAMED BEST TEACHERS BY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Each year, students and alumni have the opportunity to recognize their favorite teachers at Colorado State University through the CSU Alumni Association's Best Teacher Awards. Six teachers are selected by a committee based on student and alumni nominations. Courtenay Daum, associate professor in the department of political science, and Yerachmiel Gorelick, adjunct professor in the department of philosophy, were the recipients of two of the 2014 Best Teacher Awards.

Kellen Wittkop ('13) says about Daum, "She believed in me more than I believe in myself. She struck the perfect balance of accessibility and challenge, ensuring her students could fully understand the material while also daring us to think outside of the box."

Gorelik, who is director of the Rohr Chabad Jewish Center of Northern Colorado and the only orthodox rabbi in Fort Collins, also received high praise: "He is the most dedicated teacher I have ever met." – Daniel Brown ('16). "Rabbi Gorelik has not stopped inspiring me from the moment I met him eight years ago." – Ashley Mills ('09).



## AOKI AND BEEKEN GIVEN ANN GILL EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Thanks to a generous gift from CSU alumnus Dennis Repp, Dean Ann Gill will be able to say thank you in a big way to the best teachers in the College of Liberal Arts. Gill will distribute \$100,000 over the next five years, awarding two \$10,000 grants annually. Gill presented the first awards to Eric Aoki and Mako Beecken at an awards ceremony in April 2014.

Eric Aoki, who has taught in the Department of Communication Studies for 17 years, received the tenure-track / tenured professor award. Aoki's courses are grounded in two guiding principles: "conversations are the most meaningful events in our lives, and it is imperative that we keep the cultural conversation going."

Mako Beecken, recipient of the non-tenure-track professor award, is a native of Japan and Senior Teaching Appointment instructor who has taught in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures since 1988. Beecken has influenced and inspired generations of students with her love of language and culture, her passion for teaching, and her care for individuals.

## FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

Faculty and staff were recognized for their outstanding achievements at the College of Liberal Arts Awards Ceremony in March, 2014. Faculty Development Awards were presented to three faculty members to facilitate outstanding research and creative activities: Karrin Anderson, communication studies; Nathan Citino, history; and Constance DeVereaux, music, theatre, and dance.

The Curricular Innovation Award was presented to Kurtis North, Elizabeth

Sink, and Amanda Wright, communication studies, for their redesign of the course SPCM 100, Communication and Popular Culture. Sue Pendell, communication studies, received the Distinction in Advancement Award for her work on the communication studies 50th anniversary fundraising campaign and celebration. The John M. Stern Award, which honors faculty who have demonstrated exemplary professional accomplishments, was presented to Fernando Valerio-Holguin, foreign languages & literatures.

Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented to Christopher Blake, economics, for graduate teaching assistant; Lorella Paltrinieri, foreign languages and literatures, for special/temporary faculty; Maite Correa, foreign languages & literatures, for tenure-track faculty; and Kyle Saunders, political sciences, for tenured faculty.



# COLLEGE UPDATE

*Council members pictured enjoying the day on campus are, from left, Dennis Graham (philosophy 1968), a Court of Appeals judge from Denver; Kellie Sponberg (technical journalism 1990), a child advocate from Fort Collins; co-chairs Phil Hughes (history 1974), an attorney from Chicago, and Linda Cates (speech communication BA 1970 and MA 1972), a retired high school teacher from Fort Collins; John Blair (social sciences 1974), a trust officer from Fort Collins; Marie Livingston (economics Ph.D. 1984), a professor from Fort Collins; and Gene Lang (political science 1975), an attorney from Denver. Others on the Council include Loren Crabtree, former dean and provost at CSU and retired chancellor of the University of Tennessee; Tom McQueen (political science 1971), a retired attorney from Chicago, Bryan Morgan, a retired attorney from Boulder and son of the late President William E. Morgan, and Susie Wargin (speech communication, 1992), a sports broadcaster and realtor from Denver.*



## LIBERAL ARTS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Liberal Arts Development Council is composed of successful and engaged alumni of the College of Liberal Arts. These individuals provide leadership in our effort to forward the college's mission and to support its programs. They have been instrumental in helping to secure financial gifts to the college, engage our alumni, improve our programs, and support our students through scholarships and internship opportunities. They have been wonderfully generous in their support of the college.

*Front row (L-R): Avondine Hill (ethnic studies, political science), Grace Fenske (business administration, economics, Chinese), Lora Elliott (political science, economics, business administration), Matthew Lancto (history, anthropology, political science), Clayton King (economics, political science). Back row (L-R): Spencer Nolan (history, political science), Autumn Lee (political science, history), Sam Laffey (economics, history).*



## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS DEAN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Liberal Arts Dean's Leadership Council (LADLC) has a mission to advocate for the needs of all Liberal Arts students at Colorado State University. They are incredibly involved in our campus community through volunteering and started a grant program from student organizations in the College of Liberal Arts to eliminate financial obstacles while achieving their goals. In the coming year, the LADLC plans to finalize a scholarship for liberal arts students.

*Pictured above, from left, Jamie Orcutt, Andy Nickel, Kathleen Pitre, and Brandon Kramer. Others on the Council include Kerri Moncrief, Penny Burke, and Mike Bellus.*



## LIBERAL ARTS AMBASSADORS COUNCIL

The Liberal Arts Ambassadors Council includes midcareer alumni who lend their time and talent to the college. They have developed a scholarship for high-achieving liberal arts students who are involved in community service activities.





What can you do with a Liberal Arts degree? Anything you want! Communication studies senior Braxton Norwood is one of the newest tenants of the Rocky Mountain Innosphere. His company, TurfToes, creates sandals which give the sensation of walking barefoot on grass.

Antonio Pedrós-Gascón, professor in foreign languages and literatures, prepares a paella for the Gastronomy and Cultures class. The culinary-social event also included a reading of the poem "Ode to the Paella" by José María Pemán.

# LIBERAL ARTS STUDENTS & FACULTY OUT IN THE WORLD





"A Year with Frog and Toad" at the University Center for the Arts. The iconic green curtain from the show will be made into soft, warm blankets for children and donated to Adoption Dreams Come True and Realities for Children, two organizations which provide services for low-income families and children in need.



A future Colorado State student stands in front of a large mural featuring Dean Ann Gill and several student athletes at a College of Liberal Arts commencement ceremony. The mural is at the entrance of the south lobby in Moby Arena.



Senior Lindsay Dighero (dance, health and exercise science) stopped to take a selfie with donor Jane Sullivan at the Liberal Arts scholarship brunch. Jane created the Jane Sullivan Scholarship for Dance Education which Lindsay received this year.



Cultural anthropology senior Madison Brandt worked with professor Jeffrey Snodgrass to create and self-publish an ethnographic cookbook for her honors thesis. Madison cooked with a variety of Fort Collins chefs (professional and non-professional), documenting in words and photos their food, recipes, lives, communities, and culture. Proceeds from the book support Friends of Happy Heart Farm, which provides free farm shares to low-income families in Fort Collins.





Faculty and staff from English and Philosophy prepare for a tour of their spaces in the Eddy building, currently under construction and scheduled for a grand opening in Fall 2015. From left to right: John Didier (chair, philosophy), Louann Reid (chair, English), Amparo Jeffrey (office manager, English), and Gaylene Wolfe (graduate program assistant, philosophy).



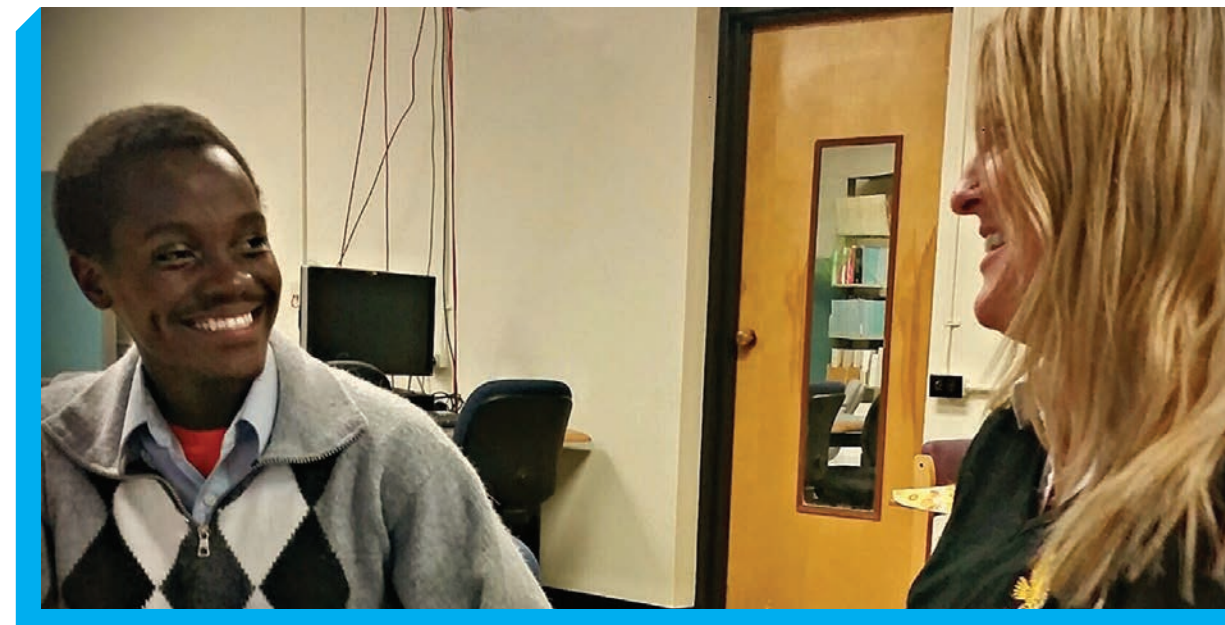
The College of Liberal Arts student ambassadors stopped to take a photo with Dean Gill before heading down to Denver for the Parade of Lights. The ambassadors handed out Liberal Arts holiday postcards to CSU alumni along the parade route.



Associate Dean Bruce Ronda takes a tour of the Eddy Building. Dr. Ronda oversees the renovation of Eddy for the College of Liberal Arts.



Faculty and students from Ethnic Studies and the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research ran the Bliss 5k in May. The Bliss Run supports SAVA (Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center), Crossroads Safehouse, and CSU Campus Corps.



First-year student Jedee Manirikumwenatwe meets with Renee Harmon at the CSU Writing Center. Jedee moved to the United States from Tanzania ten years ago and chose to attend CSU because the mountain views remind him of home. As a consultant and education Ph.D. student, Renee not only works at the Writing Center, but also uses their services for an outside opinion on work related to her dissertation.



College of Liberal Arts alumna Susie Wargin (BA, Speech Communication, 1992) met with CSU student athletes during a career class field trip to Denver in July.



# PASSAGES

## HOWARD LEICHMAN

(1931-2013)

Professor Howard Leichman, 82, taught Victorian literature and scholarship/editing in the Department of English in the 1970s passed away at Tacoma, Washington, October 23, 2013.

## CAMILLE IBBOTSON

(1951-2013)

Camille Ibbotson was an adjunct faculty member in art history. Greatly loved by both her colleagues and her students, Ibbotson also worked as an advisor for students seeking careers in human health and veterinary medicine.

## PATRICIA BAILEY

(1947-2014)

Dr. Patricia Bailey worked at CSU from 1999 through spring 2014. With a passion for knowledge and the written word, Bailey taught literature courses in the English department.

## DENNIS GOELTL

(1950-2014)

Dennis Geolti served as an adjunct instructor in the sociology department. He also taught part-time at Front Range Community College and in the ethnic studies department.

## RICHARD LEE SPEER

(1933-2014)

Richard Lee Speer was a faculty member in philosophy at Colorado State, but he also taught at the University of Colorado, Regis College and Front Range Community College during his career. Lee specialized in instruction of ethics and began to lead in the field of agricultural ethics in conjunction with CSU's Department of Agricultural Sciences.

**CLA Connections, The College of Liberal Arts Newsletter, is published annually by the College of Liberal Arts at Colorado State University for alumni, faculty, and friends. We welcome your comments and suggestions.**

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# 2013-2014 RETIRING FACULTY AND STAFF

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**PAT CORONEL**

Department of Art  
31 years

**BILL DAVIS**

Department of Music,  
Theatre, and Dance  
30 years

**KATE KIEFER**

Department of English  
35 years

**JIM LANDERS**

Department of Journalism  
& Technical Communication  
12 years

**DAVID MILOFSKY**

Department of English  
25 years

**SUE PENDELL**

Department of Communication Studies  
35 years

**PAOLA MALPEZZI PRICE**

Department of Foreign Languages  
and Literatures  
30 years

**DONNA ROUNER**

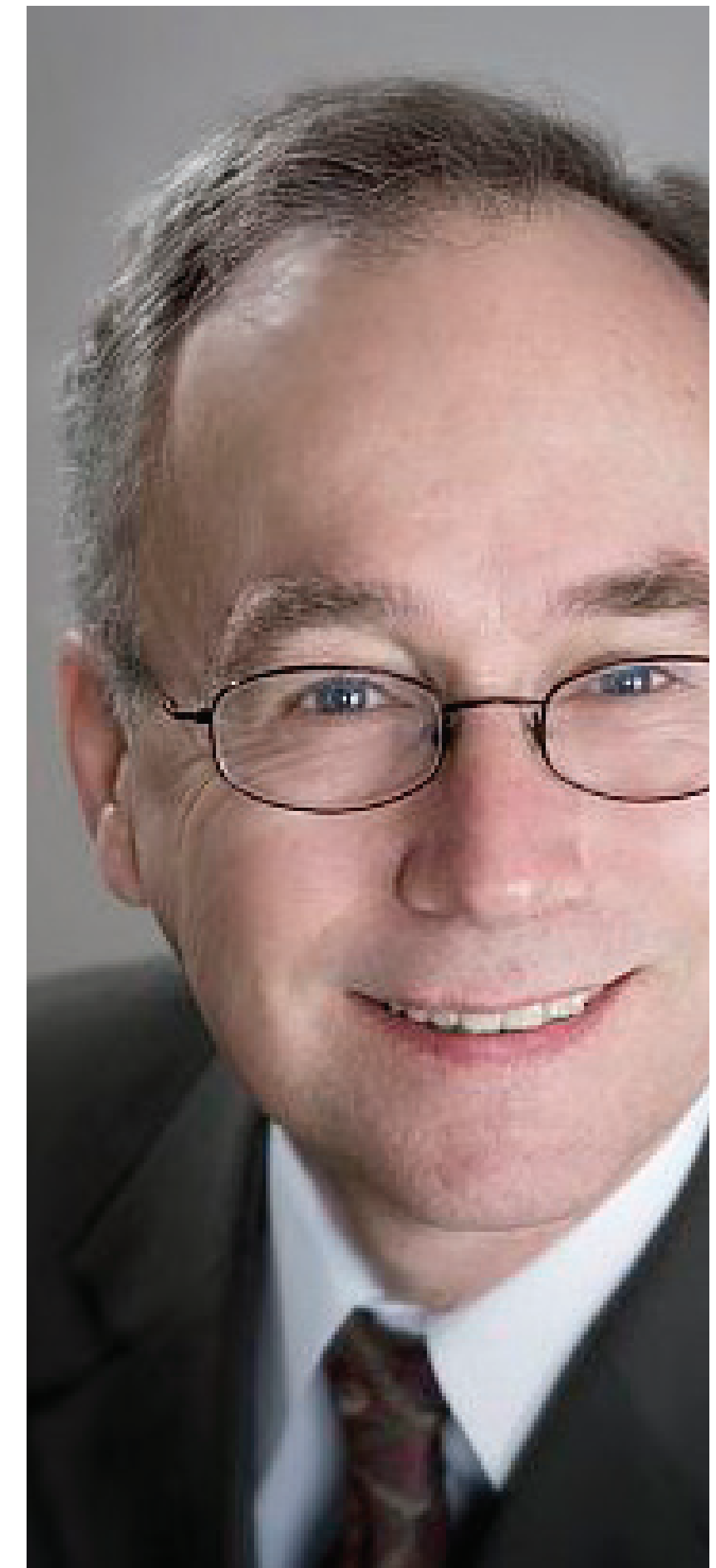
Department of Journalism  
& Technical Communication  
27 years

**STEVEN SCHWARTZ**

Department of English  
30 years

**STEPHEN SIMONS**

Department of Art  
25 years







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# MESSAGE FROM DEAN ANN GILL

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“Human salvation lies in the hands  
of the creatively maladjusted.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Currently there is a great deal of public attention given to the STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering and math. While I am very much in favor of each of those fields of study, I am a true believer in what a liberal arts education does for a human being. Dr. King’s quotation captures the spirit of that belief. Those whose liberal arts education has made them creatively maladjusted spend their lives seeking new solutions to problems, challenging policies and practices that are outmoded or unjust, and working to make a positive difference in all the workplaces and other spaces of their lives. I am convinced that is the human salvation to which Dr. King was referring.

My belief in a liberal arts education was rather unexpectedly invigorated last spring. Over the course of the semester, I noticed that the exterior walls of the Clark Building, where my office is located, were becoming message boards. Individuals were chalking notices about upcoming events and other things on the smooth concrete walls, which are painted a deep rust. My concern about this practice became personal the day a young fellow jumped onto the ledge directly outside my windows and started chalking an advertisement for a business on the nearby wall. My rational appeals to the fellow failed to deter him from his chalking, and so my annoyance grew.

Then one evening as I walked to my car, I noticed a newly chalked message on the north-facing wall. It was not a notice or advertisement but a stanza from an Edgar Allan Poe poem. As I continued, I encountered stanzas from several other poems. Suddenly I was in a wonderful mood, and I realized my experience of chalking had been transformed. I was seeing it as creative and inspiring rather than commercial and annoying.

A creatively maladjusted liberal arts student, or perhaps several, became my human salvation. Those poetic stanzas allowed me to find in chalking evidence that creativity and the liberal arts will triumph in any medium in which human expression occurs. Long live poetry in public places and spaces!

My fond wish for each of you is that your liberal arts education continues to inspire in you a bit of creative maladjustment and that you continue to challenge whatever needs to be challenged and to make a positive difference in the many spaces of your life.