

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO
FALL/WINTER 2013

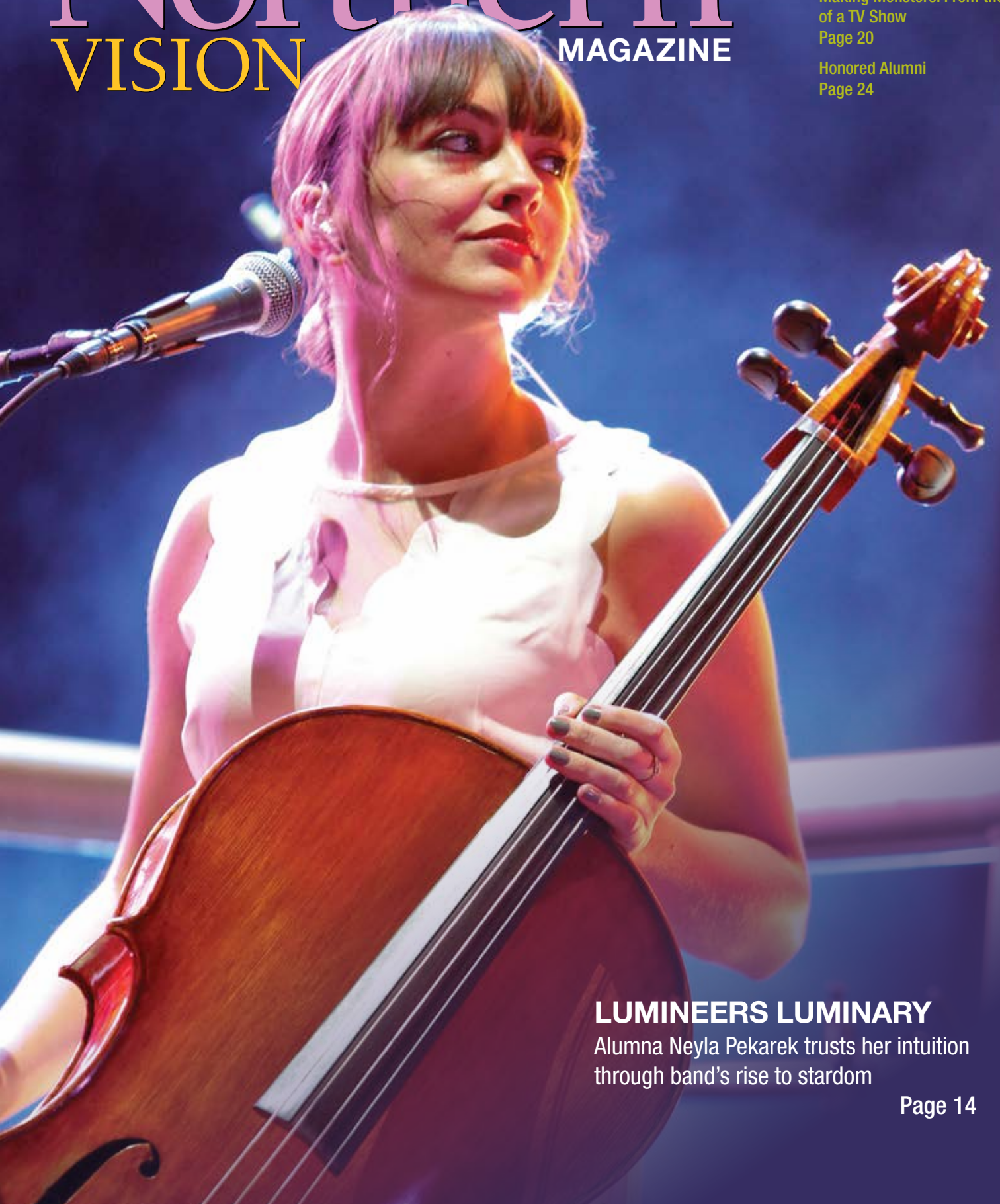
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LUMINEERS LUMINARY

Alumna Neyla Pekarek trusts her intuition
through band's rise to stardom

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PUBLISHER

Chuck Leonhardt, Vice President,
University Relations

EDITOR

Nate Haas (MS-04), Director,
University News & PR

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gary Dutmers, Senior Writer /
Editor, University News & PR

ART DIRECTION/DESIGN

Gretchen Kershner, Graphic
Designer, University Relations

ALUMNI/CLASS NOTES EDITOR

Margie Meyer, Assistant to the Vice
President, Development & Alumni
Relations

COPY EDITOR

Misty Barnes

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Mike Chambers (BA-90), Anne
Cumming Rice, Nick Evans, Amy
Dressel-Martin, Dan England,
Steve Luhm (BA-76), Mike Peters
(BA-68)

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Nicolette Bardos, Eric Bellamy,
Barry Gutierrez, Barry LaPoint

ADVISORY BOARD

Steve Baker (BA-86)
Randy Bangert (BA-76)
Cynthia Evans (BA-73)
Anita Fleming-Rife (BA-79, MA-90)
Vicki Gorrell
Kurt Hinkle (BA-98)
Lynn Klyde-Silverstein
Matthew Manfra
Amy Nickelson (BA-98)
Gloria Reynolds

EDITORIAL OFFICE

University Relations,
Carter Hall 2009, Campus Box 51
Greeley, CO 80639
Phone: (970) 351-1763
Fax: (970) 351-1837
E-mail: northernvision@unco.edu

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Photos courtesy of Gal Faganel

CONCERT ON THE SUMMIT: UNC Assistant Professor Gal Faganel and CU graduate student Jenny Shea hiked six hours, covering about 7 ½ miles and 5,100 feet in elevation while carrying their instruments, to reach a rocky stage atop Longs Peak. On the 14,259-foot summit, they performed a concert in front of 14 fellow hikers.

📺 Watch a two-minute clip of the performance and read Faganel's account of the experience at www.unco.edu/news/?5544

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Neyla Pekarek (BA-10) trusts her intuition through band's rise to stardom.
Photography by Barry Guiterez

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EDITOR'S NOTE: 'MOST LIMITS YOU PUT ON YOURSELF'

Matt Schuman (BA-86) wasn't supposed to live long enough to see his second birthday.

For 49 years — filled with highlights from being the first poster child for the Colorado Muscular Dystrophy Association to graduating from high school and going on to earn a journalism degree from UNC to covering the Denver Broncos and their Super Bowl wins for the *Greeley Tribune* — he inspired.

His determination is just one of the reasons the news of his death Aug. 4 came as such a shock.

A former colleague, and honored to be considered a friend, I didn't fully grasp the magnitude of the lives he touched until the ensuing media coverage.

Then came a memorial service that drew some 400 people — among them head coach

Earnest Collins and the entire Bears football team (at left) and former Broncos player Steve Watson. Matt, an award-winning writer, had been covering UNC athletics at the time of his death and had contributed to *Northern Vision*.

A common refrain for those who spoke was that Matt never complained about his condition, which required him to be in a motorized wheelchair and use voice recognition software to produce his stories. "... He wanted to show — and he would speak at schools and talk about it — that most limits, you put on yourself. They're not forced upon you," his older brother Mark, who established a UNC scholarship in Matt's honor, told *Denver Post* columnist Terry Frei.

I nodded in agreement when Frei closed his section-front story Aug. 5 with: "RIP, Matt. We all can learn from you."

— Nate Haas (MS-04)



Unprecedented Flooding Causes Widespread Destruction in State

The devastating floods that left a path of destruction over more than 1,500 square miles through 24 counties in Colorado affected us all profoundly. Our university community was no exception.

Tragically, Gerald “Gerry” Boland (BA-59) of Lyons was one of the eight people who died. Boland, 80, taught in Lyons for 31 years and coached basketball there for 23 years (for a tribute on Boland, visit northernvision.unco.edu).

While UNC’s campus infrastructure was not impacted, our campus community was directly affected. Campus housing was provided to 38 faculty, staff and students who were displaced. The Campus Recreation Center offered showers and restrooms to residents (averaging 40 people per day) during a no-flush mandate in nearby Evans, where 111 employees reside.

Donations to disaster relief funds set up to provide financial assistance to UNC students and employees in need have provided support for three students and eight employees to date.

For more information, including how to contribute, visit www.unco.edu/news/?5755

Sociologist Combines Experience as Evacuee with Expertise to Launch Study

Jeff Houser, his wife and their adopted Newfoundland dog were among the last group to be evacuated by a Chinook helicopter from their home in Glen Haven.

The associate professor of Sociology has been told that it will be at least a year until they can return to their home overlooking the floodplain in the idyllic mountain town northeast of Estes Park.

Until then, he’s residing in campus housing.

Houser is combining his experience as an evacuee with his research interests as director of UNC’s Social Research Lab. He’s seeking grant funding for a student-involved project to conduct a needs’ assessment of residents who were displaced by the floods.

“We want to find out what can be done better next time around and use this as a learning experience,” says Houser, who intends to share the results with city governments and organizations that responded.

For more stories of campus community members directly affected and photos visit www.unco.edu/news/?5933

A helicopter lands in Glen Haven as part of evacuation efforts following flooding in the area and across the state. Images capture some of the destruction in and around Glen Haven.

Photos courtesy of Jeff Houser

COLORADO FLOOD FAST FACTS

- 5,958 people evacuated (2,256 by air)
- 8 people died
- At least 1,882 homes destroyed
- More than \$2 billion in property damage
- 200 miles of roads damaged
- \$475 million total cost of permanent repairs on highways
- 50 bridges damaged
- 24 counties affected

Source: Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management



Ask the President



Q: Is higher education an unaffordable luxury?

A: At a time when higher education is more important than ever (67 percent of jobs in Colorado will require at least a bachelor's degree by 2018, according to a projection from the

Center on Education and Workforce at Georgetown University), we face conflicting challenges. We must address affordability, as states are unable to invest in public colleges and universities as they once did, while simultaneously reaching more students amid the escalating costs of higher education.

Q: What is UNC doing to adapt to provide transformational education for years to come?

A: In response to those challenges, this fall I announced a \$1 million initiative to foster innovation. The funding over two years would support projects proposed by the campus community that focus on innovative academic programs, delivery methods and student success.

Our focus will be on identifying, and then implementing, innovative projects to offer more students transformative education (our hallmark) and helping more students succeed. As I told the campus community at my annual State of the University address:

Not every initiative we launch may end up being a game-changing innovation. But we're going to send up enough rockets that some of them are bound to break free — and even from the ones that fail, we're going to learn something. And you know what, I like our chances.

UNC President Kay Norton answers questions related to higher education in each issue. Email your question for consideration to northernvision@unco.edu (see page 31 for a letter in response to Norton's previous installment.) Video and transcript of her campus address is available at www.unco.edu/pres

Did You Know?

UNC served more than 15,600 students during the entire year in 2012-13. That number includes students enrolled in classes on the main campus, through extended studies centers and online.

For more university and facts and figures, visit www.unco.edu/about_unc

A World with 100 People

What if the world had only 100 people living in it? What would it look like based on characteristics of the current population? Thanks to Professor Emeritus John Vonk and alumnus Fritz Erickson, there's well-researched answers.

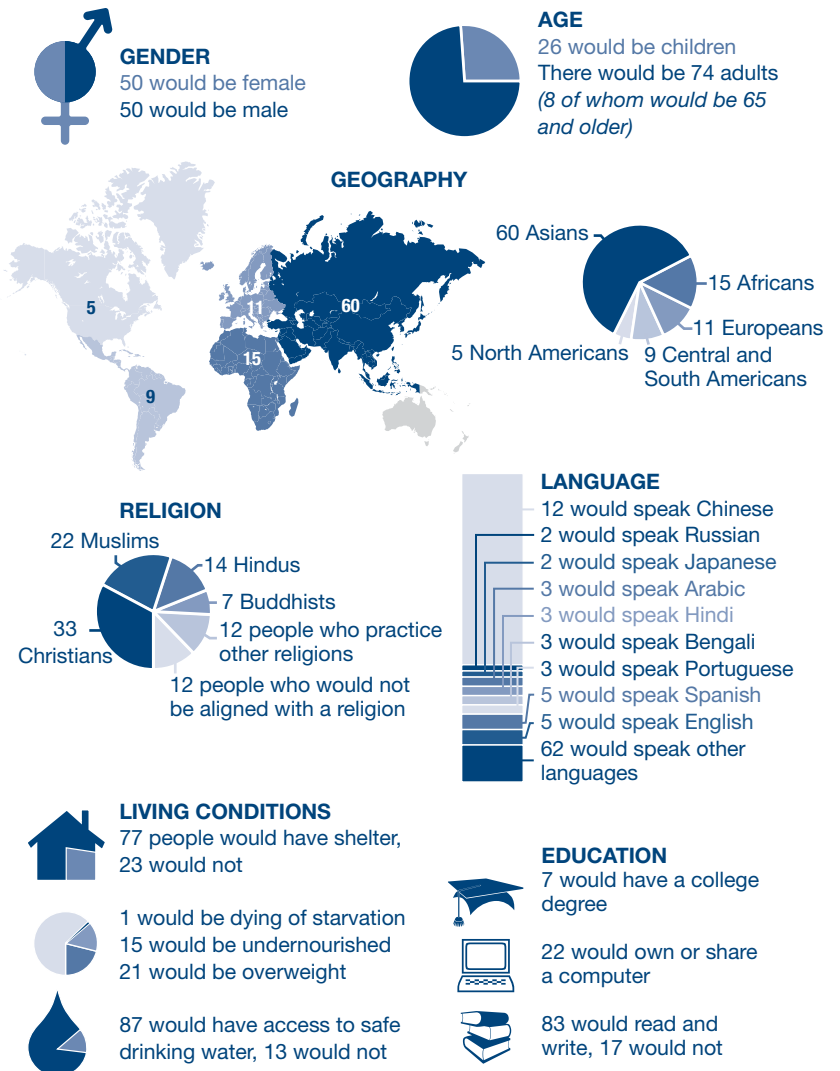
Vonk and Erickson collaborated in 2006 to provide the framework for *100 People: A World Portrait*. The tidy snapshot that continues to be updated is based on projections extrapolated after sifting through data for 15 variables that "represent the most common characteristics" among the 7 billion of us on the planet.

Criteria like language, sexuality and race are mathematically estimated through the survey. Vonk says that the idea is to think about all of the different traits each human has.

"Once you get past the first layer of gender, the survey becomes extremely complex," he says.

Over the years, the 100 People Foundation, which funded the study, has traveled worldwide to collect and share stories. At 100people.org, teachers can learn how to make it a class project and nominate an individual who represents one of the 100 people.

— Nick Evans



Ask the Expert

What are a few fun facts about the state of Colorado?

History expert, author and UNC faculty member Mary Borg has countless Colorado facts to share. The instructor of UNC classes on Colorado and American history provided some of her favorites as the 38th state in the union celebrated its 137th anniversary Aug. 1:

- No one had ever heard of Colorado in 1859 when gold was discovered in the Dry Fork of Cherry Creek. The area was part of Kansas. But people had heard of Pikes Peak since Zebulon Pike named the mountain near present-day Colorado Springs in 1807. And so, in general confusion, Colorado's gold rush was labeled The Pikes Peak Gold Rush and folks painted "Pikes Peak or Bust" on their wagons.
- To Colorado miners, Tommyknockers, the spirits or ghosts of dead miners, were real. When they knocked — tap tap tap — they were warning about danger, like a mine collapse or the presence of poisonous gases in the mine. Or even better, miners said, these two-foot tall, bearded and wrinkle-faced Tommyknockers were informing a miner where a rich vein of ore was just waiting to be discovered. They were helpful pranksters.
- Colorado has more ghost towns on the Eastern Plains than it has mining ghost towns in the Rocky Mountains.
- On Black Sunday, April 14, 1935, the worst dust storm of all the "black blizzards" hit the Great Plains. The Dust Bowl storm carried away twice as much dirt as was dug out of the earth to create the Panama Canal. The canal took seven years to dig; the duster lasted a single afternoon. More than 300,000 tons of Great Plains topsoil blew away.
- The area where the Cherry Creek Shopping Center is today started out as a place to "mine" sand from a huge pit, which then became Denver's dump. After the sandpit was filled in with garbage, the shopping center was built — an excellent example of land reclamation.
- The first edition of the *Rocky Mountain News*, Colorado's first newspaper (now defunct), published on April 23, 1859, locates the newspaper as being from Cherry Creek, K.T. (Kansas Territory).
- In 1955, there were four TV stations broadcast from Denver. On Sunday, Sept. 4, 1955, programming began at 10:45 a.m. and ended at 11:25 p.m. The programs included *Face the Nation* and *Meet the Press* and a show called *Sounding Board*, which that Sunday was airing a segment called "What are we doing about alcoholism in Colorado?"
- After World War II, Denver became known as Washington, D.C., West because the city housed so many federal offices.

— As told to Mary Dressel-Martin

📌 Borg is interviewed about gifts Colorado has given to the country through the years, including serving as the inspiration for "America the Beautiful," at www.unco.edu/news/?5552



Behind the Building



When Candelaria Hall was dedicated in 1974, it helped usher in a new era in education. "It was part of the new campus initiative at the time," says UNC History Professor Michael Welsh, the keynote speaker of a campus presentation this fall to celebrate the building's 40th anniversary. "It was a place created to highlight the emphasis on social and cultural themes in academia and study families, communities and societies." Candelaria is home to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and 15 schools, departments or programs in the liberal arts.

FAST FACTS

- The building was named after Professor Martín Candelaria (left) the first native Spanish speaker to be hired at the university. From 1948-1963, he taught Spanish and helped establish the foreign languages department. Before arriving on campus, the Colorado native, born in 1897, served in France during World War I.
- Adorning the building's staircase, a large mural by famous artist Leo Tanguma, who infused movement into the multi-level design, tells the story of Candelaria's life.

Overheard

"The food here is the best of any college we go to."

— Peter Steinberg, head coach of the USA Rugby women's team, which has trained and competed on campus the past two summers, on the quality of food at UNC.



📌 UNC Executive Chef Aran Essig, a self-described "foodie" who loves to travel in search of cuisine to incorporate into the extensive and ever-changing campus dining menus, shares a recipe and culinary-related information at www.unco.edu/dining/chef

📌 Follow the Bears at www.uncbears.com and remember to sign up for free access to Big Sky TV to catch game coverage at www.americaonesports.com/bigsky.asp

Mapping UNC Research

DENVER – Faculty Jeremy Smith and Gary Heise in the Biomechanics Lab continue to research the effects of two different lower extremity amputations related to functional outcomes during use of a prosthetic limb during locomotion. The lab is working with Dr. David Hahn at Colorado Limb Consultants in Denver, and their goal is to determine which of two amputation techniques provides the best benefit to individuals who must undergo a lower limb amputation.

GERMANY, CZECH REPUBLIC – Associate Professor Christiane Olivo received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to direct a Summer Seminar for School Teachers. The four-week seminar, East-Central Europe, 1989: The History and Philosophy of the Peaceful Revolutions, took place in Berlin, Germany and Prague, Czech Republic.



HAWAII – Professor Steven Anderson and graduate student Adam LeWinter continue to study the active lava lake at Kilauea volcano using laser technology. Results will aid monitoring efforts associated with hazards from the lava lake

and further the understanding of how the Kilauea volcano works.

INDIA – Professor Stephen Mackessy collaborated on a discovery that a non-lethal protein from venom in Russell's Viper has potential to be used to develop drugs to treat clotting disorders and heart patients.

IRAQ – Assistant Professor of Anthropology Andrew Creekmore, freshman Anthropology major Nick Ownby and recent Colorado State graduate Josh Brookhouser spent six weeks this past summer near Erbil, the capital city of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, for the first phase of the study on Mesopotamian urbanism in the middle Bronze Age (2000–1200 B.C.) The research is part of a multi-year collaborative project to study and map an ancient city buried in Northern Iraq to learn more about how early cities developed and were structured.



CENTRAL AMERICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PAKISTAN – Professor Madeline Milian brings teachers from Central America, the Dominican Republic and Pakistan for professional development programs on campus with grant-funded support.

MINNESOTA – Faculty Deanna Meinke and Don Finan, along with Audiology students, were in St. Paul to educate on noise-induced hearing loss and prevention. The group built mannequins equipped with sound-level meters attached to their ears that read and display how loud music is being played. Kids and families brought their music players to test just how loud they're listening to music.

MINNESOTA, NEW ORLEANS, ITALY – Professors Sherilyn Marrow, Nancy Karlin and Joyce Weil have studied factors that affect resiliency in survivors of natural disasters. Over the years, they've traveled to New Orleans and Italy to interview hurricane and earthquake victims, respectively. Karlin was a guest on Minnesota Public Radio this past May to share what the group has learned in connection with the tornado that struck Moore, Okla.

NORTHERN COLORADO – Elizabeth Franklin, Hispanic Studies, is leading an interdisciplinary team of UNC faculty (Lori Reinsvold, Teresa Higgins, Youngjin Song, Jenni Harding-Dekam) in the development of effective strategies to teach math, science and academic language to English learners at the elementary level. UNC is partnering with Denver Public Schools, Greeley-Evans District 6, and Poudre School District on this \$1.8 million grant from the Office of English Language Acquisition.

POLAND, SLOVAKIA, COLORADO ROCKY MOUNTAINS – Emeritus Professor Bob Brunswig has directed UNC archaeological and ancient climates research projects

in Colorado's Rocky Mountains with colleagues from UNC and other universities for more than two decades. Recently, he began development of an international collaborative research program with faculty from universities in Poland and Slovakia focused on archaeology and climate history in the Rocky Mountains and Western Carpathian Mountains. In advancing that program, Brunswig received a Wzrost Visiting Professor Fellowship from Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland, beginning this May. He also will be on a Fulbright Specialist Scholar stay at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, in winter 2014.



UNITED STATES – Self-motivation, perceived competence and classroom engagement in fifth grade significantly predict reading achievement in eighth grade, according to UNC researchers. The study by Assistant Professor John Mark Froiland and doctoral graduate assistant Emily Oros was recently published in *Educational Psychology*.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A study by Assistant Professor Josh Packard was included in a brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in the recent affirmative action case. He told the *The Denver Post* that his research showed that a diverse student population led to more engaged students.

ETHIOPIA, ARMENIA, LEBANON, MYANMAR – Jerry Overmyer, created the Flipped Learning Network Ning — a professional learning network for educators interested in flipped learning. The modern concept of a flipped classroom was created by teachers in Colorado, and Overmyer offered to have UNC's Mathematics and Science Teaching Institute host a site so educators could share their flipping stories. Originally made up of a few dozen teachers, the site has recently passed 14,000 members worldwide, with members from more than 100 countries, including Ethiopia, Armenia, Lebanon and Myanmar.



Photography by Eric Bellamy



Charmed by Snakes: Professor Eyes Venoms for Treatment Options

Steve Mackessy walks across the scrubby field like a city dweller headed to a deal, probably the way he did when he was a kid hunting for snakes in the southern California mountains.

The field, deep in the heart of Weld County, resembles much of the country near the Pawnee National Grassland: brown, dusty and littered with tumbleweeds but dotted with greenery and bluffs. It's certainly not among the exotic locations Mackessy visits as one of the world leaders in snake venom research.

Yet just as Mackessy walks with a purpose — you have to hustle to keep up with him — he pauses by every prairie dog hole and scrapes under piles of brush with the stick of a snake handler.

The area is home to the prairie rattlesnake, and that rattlesnake is as important to him as the cow to a dairy farmer (Mackessy likes to compare venom to milk, calling it a renewable resource.) Even though it becomes obvious the snakes just aren't out this morning, the UNC professor of Biology doesn't want to leave. There's always another hole to check.

When he does return to his Ross Hall lab, Mackessy — who eschews a white coat for a Columbia button-up shirt and greets people with a “hey, man” — will slip into a researcher's role easily. He studies proteins in venom that may help us — from fighting blood clots to aiding digestion and even battling cancer.

Many proteins in venom have similar qualities among all snakes, but the individual differences in those proteins can be the bull's-eye, even among different kinds of rattlesnakes. Recognizing the differences, and pinpointing them, is the tricky part. The same three-fingered protein from a cobra can paralyze prey and attract mates, two radically different objectives. To successfully treat cancer, a protein may be just different enough to attack the disease, rather than leave it unscathed. Mackessy's job is to narrow and pinpoint those compounds that could be useful as drugs, though he would never make the drug himself.

Mackessy first made a name for himself for his research on blood clots before moving on to cancer. For a segment on the



Lion Awake: Close Encounters While Out in the Field



Into the Night, a collection of essays edited by UNC biologist Rick Adams, gives readers an unvarnished look into personal experiences, including perils faced in the field, of intrepid researchers forging into remote areas to study nocturnal



life. Here's an excerpt from the essay written by Adams, a foremost authority on bats who's also co-edited *Bat Evolution, Ecology, and Conservation* and authored *Bats of the Rocky Mountain West*:

We sit on the ground next to our bat net in silence, half asleep as the clock strikes midnight. We are an hour's hike from civilization and even though activity is low, we wait patiently. As I peer half alert into the darkness I notice a unique movement, a shadow really, that for some unknown reason signals my brain that something is amiss. I am in mid-thought, when with equal hesitation, Kate whispers, "What was that?" As I trigger my head torch, we are both astonished at our fate. A mere six feet away stands two mountain lions. We are literally face to face with the region's apex predator that reaches 150 pounds and is known to have a pouncing distance of 30 feet. At this moment we are indeed sitting prey. As the light from my torch hits them, they look momentarily confused, stretching out their necks as if trying to peer through a sudden and unexpected sun.

🔗 For more details about the book visit www.upcolorado.com/book/2696

Discovery Channel, he also showed how venom could aid in the snake's digestion. Though many worked on venom and blood clots before him, the cancer research is newer and more personal. Doctors removed a spot on his back, another on his temple, and he bears a tiny scar on his nose from a minor operation there as well. He doesn't regret those days in southern California looking for critters. That's a big reason why he does what he does now. He just wishes he knew more about sunscreen back then.

Research is time consuming, and sometimes, to do it right, it can be a full-time job. But Mackessy wouldn't want to work in research full-time, even when he still, at age 57, feels as if he's in danger of burning the candle on both ends because of his teaching career.

"Unless you don't sleep," he says, "it makes it a challenge."

He continually proves himself, says acting assistant vice president for research Teresa M. McDevitt. He's published more than 60 articles in the most prestigious outlets and presented in Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and parts of Europe, Costa Rica and Canada. This fall, he'll go to South America for the first time. Students in his classes and graduate students join him in the field, as they did for studies from 1994-97 and 2000-02 with the state to record and establish numbers of reptiles and amphibians in eastern Colorado.

Two years ago, UNC gave him the M. Lucile Harrison Award, the university's top faculty honor.

"The technical aspects of his work are well-regarded," McDevitt says. "But he's able to bring that alive to students. That's an exceptional ability to be able to reach out and motivate at so many different levels."

The state is indebted to his work with reptile populations, but his studies of the

desert massasauga are the most invaluable, says Tina Jackson, who is in charge of monitoring the reptile population for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Mackessy prefers to give credit to a rancher in southeastern Colorado for allowing the studies, but by fall 2007, all that work yielded 1,800 records of the massasauga. Before the studies began, there were only two dozen known sightings of the snake.

"You have to be in the right place at the right time to see them," he says. The work will help the state convince the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the massasauga won't need to be listed as endangered and therefore dodge additional costly regulations.

Back in Weld County, Mackessy keeps secret his prime spots to find prairie rattlesnakes, as if they were codes to a few of the nuclear weapons buried out in that prairie.

"People will come out to catch them, or kill them, or God knows what else," he says. "It's really unfortunate. They are these really beautiful and interesting creatures."

They are also useful, Mackessy said, and his work attempts to prove that. It's also proof that conservation and finding the good in creatures such as snakes, even if they appear scary, can benefit us with cures for diseases such as cancer.

"It doesn't have to be from a tree-hugging perspective," he says. "I don't mind exploring and using how they benefit us."

And yet, Mackessy smiles when he talks about his conservation efforts, and he looks up for a second at the large rattlesnake photo in his office.

"Though I am more of the tree hugger," he says.

— By Dan England

🔗 View more photos at northernvision.unco.edu



SEEKING ANSWERS

By Steve Luhm (BA-76)

Former teammate's death prompts Dave Stalls to volunteer for concussion study involving former NFL players



"Every time you have tests done, they ask, 'How many concussions have you had?' My question back to them is, 'How do you define concussion? All the times you were woozy or only the times you were knocked out on the ground?' ... I know I was woozy — I saw stars — almost every day."

DAVID STALLS WASN'T SURE WHAT TO DO.

It was the summer of 1977 and, after four years of starring at UNC, he had been drafted by the Dallas Cowboys — one of the NFL's glamour franchises.

It seemed like the perfect opportunity for Stalls, who as a defensive lineman at UNC had established himself as one of the best players in school history.

Still, he was torn.

Stalls, who majored in zoology and minored in chemistry, was only one quarter shy of graduating — "Football made me miss a lot of afternoon labs," he says almost apologetically — and pursuit of a master's degree in marine biology was his next goal.

When the Cowboys selected him in the seventh round of the draft, however, another door opened.

"Football was not a priority in my life," Stalls says. "Being drafted was an amazing compliment, but I had to think about whether I was going to do it."

Two factors helped Stalls decide.

No. 1, the money he earned would quickly erase concerns about paying for graduate school — even if he didn't stick with the Cowboys.

Stalls received \$5,000 just for going to training camp. By making the team, he earned another \$22,500, with the possibility of doubling that amount if Dallas reached the Super Bowl, which it did.

"I never imagined making so much money," he says.

Beyond finances, Stalls had a more personal reason for trying professional football.

"Division II guys always wondered whether we could play with the big guys," Stalls says. "Part of me wanted to find out. Can I play with the [top] draft choices — guys from the big schools? I wanted to prove myself."

Of course, there would be a price to pay.



STARRING AT UNC: During lunch in a campus dining room, Stalls celebrated with friends, who informed him he'd been drafted. After winning a Super Bowl ring his rookie year with the Dallas Cowboys, he returned to campus the following spring to complete his degree.

Stalls played football for nearly two decades — including high school, college and eight years in the NFL. It was an era when players were expected to perform, not nurse injuries or worry about their future.

In that regard, Stalls was typical — strapping on his helmet, day-after-day, despite the violent collisions he endured during grueling practices and games. Concussions?

NFL teams preferred to think of them as an unavoidable hazard of the job.

Asked how many times his brain ricocheted around inside his skull so violently that he suffered a concussion, Stalls laughed like someone who already knows the punch line of a bad joke.

"It's funny," he says. "Every time you have tests done, they ask, 'How many concussions have you had?' My question back to them is, 'How do you define concussion? All the times you were woozy or only the times you were knocked out on the ground?' ... I know I was woozy — I saw stars — almost every day."

Two years ago, Stalls was devastated by the death of former teammate Leroy Selmon. The Hall of Famer suffered a stroke and died two days later.

"He was such a great human being," Stalls says. "He was always in great condition. He never punished his body with alcohol or drugs. For him to die, it made me look at myself and say, 'I have to find a few things out.'"

Stalls went to a neuropsychological specialist in Denver. He had been increasingly bothered by memory loss and sleeplessness and decided to see if those symptoms were related to past brain injuries.

"I was told, in general, there were some areas of concern," Stalls says. "But they couldn't really tell me if they were normal for my age or not. That part of it was inconclusive."

The quest for answers continued.

To find out more about his condition and to help other past, present and future players, Stalls volunteered for a comprehensive research project by a Boston University neurology professor who is studying brain function in athletes.

Dr. Robert Stern is trying to identify indicators that will help diagnose and treat chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE. It's a condition historically connected to boxers, with recognizable symptoms including memory loss, behavioral changes, depression and thoughts of suicide.

Dr. Stern has enlisted 100 former NFL players and, for comparison, 50 athletes from sports where participants don't commonly bash heads during competition.

NFL AGREES TO \$765M SETTLEMENT

In early September, players who suffered brain damage, and others like Stalls, who continue to worry about the possibility, received some seemingly positive news.

The NFL agreed to a tentative \$765 million settlement for concussion-related injuries suffered by its former players.

The league agreed to pay ex-players for physical examinations and research studies, and in exchange, the NFL won't have to admit to any liability.

A federal judge is expected to approve the deal later this year.

"I know \$765 million sounds like a big number and it is — until you consider the thousands of former players who have existing or emerging serious health issues," Stalls says.

According to the settlement, \$675 million will be used to compensate ex-players and the families of deceased players who suffered CTE.

Individual awards to players suffering from Alzheimer's disease will be capped at \$5 million. Awards for the families of players who died from CTE will be capped at \$4 million. Awards for individuals suffering dementia will be capped at \$3 million.

Other funds will be used for baseline medical exams for former players — with a cap of \$75 million — and \$10 million for future research and education, which is "far too little," according to Stalls.

"I've had parents tell me they don't want their kids playing football and I absolutely understand it," he says. "... If enough isn't done right now, it could impact the future of the sport. I honestly believe that."

— S.L.

The study is ongoing, with final results expected next year.

In January, it was Stalls' turn to participate. He spent two days in Boston, undergoing "all kinds of memory tests." In one, he was given 30 seconds to come up with as many words beginning with the letter "f" as possible.

"I thought of four — and two of them were cuss words," Stalls says. "I thought, 'Is this just a temporary mind-blank or what?' It made me wonder. Still does."

Medical tests are also part of the research study and included brain scans, blood tests, MRIs and a spinal tap, where a large needle is used to drain cerebrospinal fluid from the patient.

"That," Stalls says, "was not fun."

The painful spinal tap was easier to endure, however, because the possible benefits of the project are so important to so many people.

"As former players, we all know someone — if they haven't killed themselves — they've lost their mental facilities," Stalls says. "They just aren't the same people they used to be and that's tragic."

To those who suggest former NFL players knew injuries were part of their sport when they embarked on their careers, Stalls has a chilling message.

"We all knew — by playing — that we were sacrificing our knees, ankles, shoulders, elbows and wrists," he says. "But we didn't realize we would be losing our cognitive ability to recognize our families. Maybe we should have, but we didn't."

After his rookie season, fresh off his Cowboys' Super Bowl XII win over the Denver Broncos on Jan. 16, 1978, Stalls returned to UNC to earn his degree.

"With fall and spring football in the afternoons, it meant I couldn't finish in the Spring of 1977 as my classmates did," Stalls says. "So I came back after the January '78 Super Bowl and finished my last quarter in the spring."

Since retiring from football, Stalls has gone on to work in such diverse fields as banking, telecommunications, veterinary medicine and marine biology. He also operated a youth center in Denver and became director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Colorado, when Selmon's shocking death in 2011 prompted another change.

"I had a great job with Big Brothers and Big Sisters but realized I needed to be back out on the streets," Stalls says. "I thought that was where I could make a real difference."

Today, Stalls operates Street Fraternity, a nonprofit program in Denver that tries to help at-risk young men from their early teens to their mid-20s overcome violent pasts.

"It is a place of brotherhood and personal growth," Stalls says. "I couldn't be happier. I feel like this is where I belong." **NV**

DEVELOPING DIAGNOSTIC TOOL: With more testing, the data UNC Professor Igor Szczyrba is collecting through computer models simulating football collisions can be validated and used on the field to help diagnose potential head injuries. Read more at www.unco.edu/news/?5860

CHOSEN PATH RESULTS IN TWO SUPER BOWL RINGS

David Stalls was born and raised in Wisconsin but played high school football in Hamilton, Ohio, where he wasn't exactly a blue-chip recruit.

"This was before the Internet, obviously," Stalls says. "So I got some books that described all the colleges out there. I went through them, trying to find a medium-sized school in a cool-sounding state."

Stalls wrote colleges in Maine, Vermont, Montana and Colorado. UNC's Bob Blasi was the only one to offer a scholarship.

"I thought I would be skiing between the evergreens to class," he says. "When we pulled into Greeley, I thought, 'You've got to be kidding me. This is the flattest place I've ever seen.'"

On the field, Stalls was more comfortable.

As a freshman, he started his first game — a 42-6 victory over Colorado Mines.

"I was scared to death," Stalls says. "But I was pleasantly surprised, too. It was a challenge, but I felt confident after that game. I thought, 'If the rest of the games are like this, I will enjoy playing college football.'"

With Stalls as an anchor on defense, UNC went 29-7 over the next four years, and in the 1977 NFL draft, Dallas took Stalls in the seventh round with the 191st pick.

With no cellphones or social media to break the news, Stalls didn't discover he'd been drafted until going to lunch at McCowan Hall's cafeteria. His friends told him. Everyone celebrated.

"It was one of the most ego-boosting things I'd ever experienced," he says. "I was very proud."

Stalls' eight seasons in the NFL were highlighted by three Super Bowl appearances, including wins with Dallas and in Oakland. He was never an All-Star, but he was always a consistent contributor.

Stalls' most difficult year was the strike-shortened 1982 season. He was a player representative in Tampa Bay, which created animosity with ownership and coaches and made him extremely unpopular with fans. He received death threats.

"It was a long, difficult season," Stalls says. "The players did not get a lot of sympathy."

In the offseason, a near-trade to Denver fell through at the last minute, so Stalls again reported to Tampa Bay. But he was released, perhaps in part because of his role in the labor dispute.

Stalls wasn't out of football for long, however.

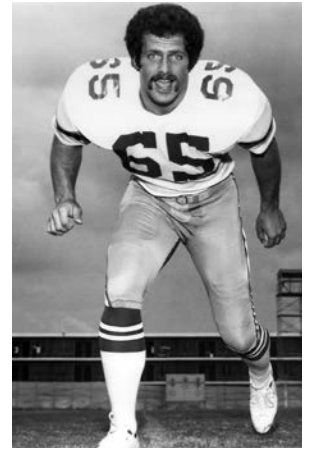
The late Al Davis, the iconic owner of the Raiders, called and offered him a chance to play in Oakland. He signed and won his second championship ring in Super Bowl XVIII.

After a year out of the game, Davis convinced Stalls to briefly play again in 1985. But he walked away — this time for good — midway through the season.

"It was just time," he says. "My knees were so painful and my shoulders were ready to fall off. My body was just done."

After Stalls was drafted, he wasn't sure whether to try the NFL or continue his education. But based on the success he enjoyed during his career, he made the right choice.

"Football was very good to me in a lot of ways," he says. "I met a lot of great people and made a lot of money."



— S.L.

DANGERS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

By Anne Cumming Rice

Parents on crusade to save lives after son's tragic accident



Heit had a perfect driving record and wasn't speeding at the time of the accident, his parents say.

“No call or text is so urgent that it cannot ‘take a back seat’ to safe driving.”

This will only take a second, you tell yourself as you receive a new text message. You do your best to keep the steering wheel of the car straight while you look down at your phone and start typing a quick response.

It took only a second for 22-year-old Alex Heit of Boulder to start typing a response to a text message, lose control of his car and ultimately lose his life last spring.

“It’ll just take a second ... I gotta answer this.’ No one even thinks of the danger to themselves, their friends, and their futures,” write Steve and Sharon Heit, Alex’s parents, in an interview via e-mail. “Unfortunately, as in this tragedy, everything can change in seconds. Prior to his accident, Alex had a perfect driving record and wasn’t speeding at the time.”

The UNC junior died April 3 in a single vehicle roll-over accident in Greeley. According to Greeley Police, Heit had been traveling eastbound on O Street from 35th Avenue, on a turn with a very narrow, dirt shoulder and a steep drop. Witnesses said he seemed to have his head down, and began drifting into the oncoming lane of traffic. A westbound vehicle slowed and moved over just before Heit looked up. As he did, he jerked the steering wheel hard, over-correcting, resulting in his leaving the south side of the roadway, rolling and flipping the vehicle.

A few days after the accident, his parents released an image of Alex’s cellphone, showing the last text message that Alex had written but had not sent.

“The photo is a powerful, disturbing image,” his parents say. “It has been sent and resent around the world, as people use it to warn others of the terrible danger of texting and driving.”

Decades ago, Mothers Against Drunk Driving made inebriated driving socially unacceptable, but there is no similarly powerful movement aimed at distracted drivers. And the distractions inside cars are only increasing.

“It can be changing the radio station, dealing with kids in the back seat,” says Sgt. Susan West, public information officer for the Greeley Police Department. “And these days, the controls in cars are becoming more complicated. Driving is a divided attention skill. But when you are paying attention to everything but driving, it’s a dangerous situation.”

Trooper Josh Lewis, public information officer for the Colorado State Patrol, says calls reporting distracted driving are increasing to the state patrol (dial *CSP). Ironically, a distracted driver exhibits the same erratic driving behavior that a drunken driver does. The U.S. Department of Transportation found that distraction from phone use while driving — whether hand-held or hands-free — slows a driver's reaction as much as having a blood-alcohol concentration of .08 percent, or being legally drunk.

"You see the weaving, the sudden braking and speeding up or slowing down," Lewis says. "Texting and driving is a three-fold danger. It takes your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel and your mind off driving."

For a first offense, distracted driving in Colorado carries a \$57 fine and one point on a driver's license. But law enforcement officials say broad change may come only with public service campaigns much like the ones about drunken driving.

"What you hear several times over sticks in your brain," West says. "The education piece is huge."

Steve and Sharon Heit agree.

"As with campaigns for seat belts or designated drivers, it will be a long process to educate people everywhere about how dangerous these new distracting technologies can be," they say.

The image of Alex Heit's last unsent text message has also had a big impact.

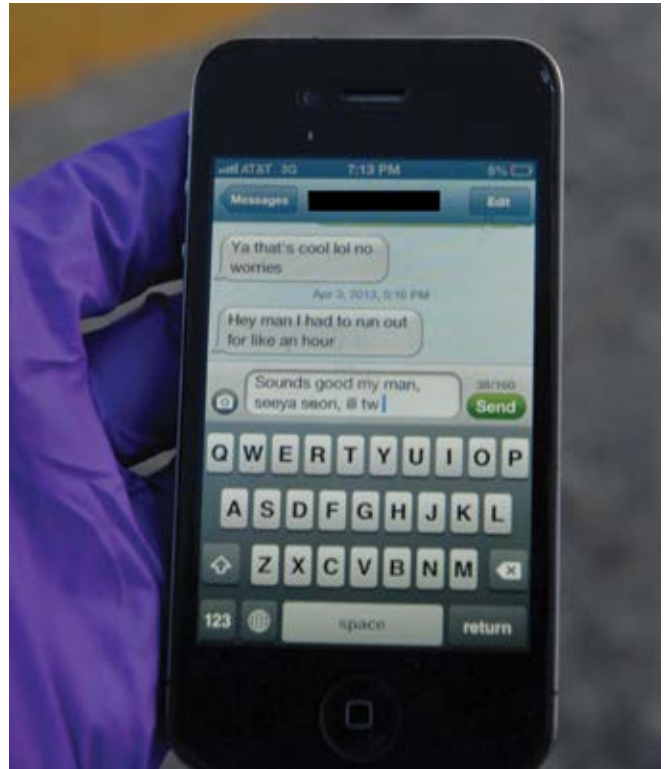
"People have written to us, saying they now leave their phones in the back seat to avoid the temptation to even glance at it when they're driving," his parents say. "We hope that that concept catches on. No call or text is so urgent that it cannot 'take a back seat' to safe driving."

On Oct. 18, which would have been Alex's 23rd birthday, a bur oak tree was planted near UNC's Garden Theatre in honor of Alex. The tree was purchased, in part, with donations the family received from the UNC community after Alex's death.

An avid snowboarder, hiker and video game master, Alex was shy and witty and loved the outdoors. He had been a junior park ranger for the city of Boulder, building trails and natural habitat in Boulder's mountain parks. His decision to study audiology at UNC was in part inspired by his grandfather's hearing loss. A Spanish minor, Alex was also considering doing an internship in Latin America.

Alex's parents said they hope his story will save lives.

"We shared the tragic photo and information about Alex's accident with the UNC community and the world in the hopes that the horror of our tragedy and the loss of a wonderful, promising young person will remind everyone how dangerous even a moment of distracted driving can be," they say. "There are so many more promising young lives to be saved." **NV**



A few days after the accident, Alex's parents released an image of his cellphone, showing the last text message that Alex had written but had not sent. "The photo is a powerful, disturbing image," his parents say. "It has been sent and resent around the world, as people use it to warn others of the terrible danger of texting and driving."



A bench on campus was dedicated and a tree planted in Alex's memory Oct. 18 on what would have been his 23rd birthday.

DO YOU DRIVE DISTRACTED?

The Department of Transportation defines distracted driving as “any activity that could divert a person’s attention away from the primary task of driving.”



Visual
Taking eyes off the road



Manual
Taking hands off the wheel



Cognitive
Taking mind off driving



A quarter of teens respond to a text message once or more every time they drive.



20 percent of teens admit that they have extended, multi-message text conversations while driving.



10 percent of parents admit that they have extended, multi-message text conversations while driving.



For drivers **15-19 years old** involved in fatal crashes, **21 percent** of the distracted drivers were distracted by the use of cell phones.

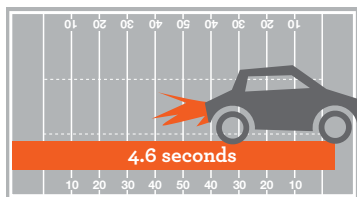


11 percent of all drivers **under the age of 20** involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crash.

This age group has the **largest proportion** of drivers who were distracted.



At any given daylight moment across America, approximately **660,000 drivers are using cell phones** or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady since 2010.



Sending or receiving a text takes a driver’s eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds—the time it takes to drive the length of an entire football field at 55 mph.



Tasks associated with the use of handheld phones and other portable devices increased the **risk of getting into a crash by three times**.

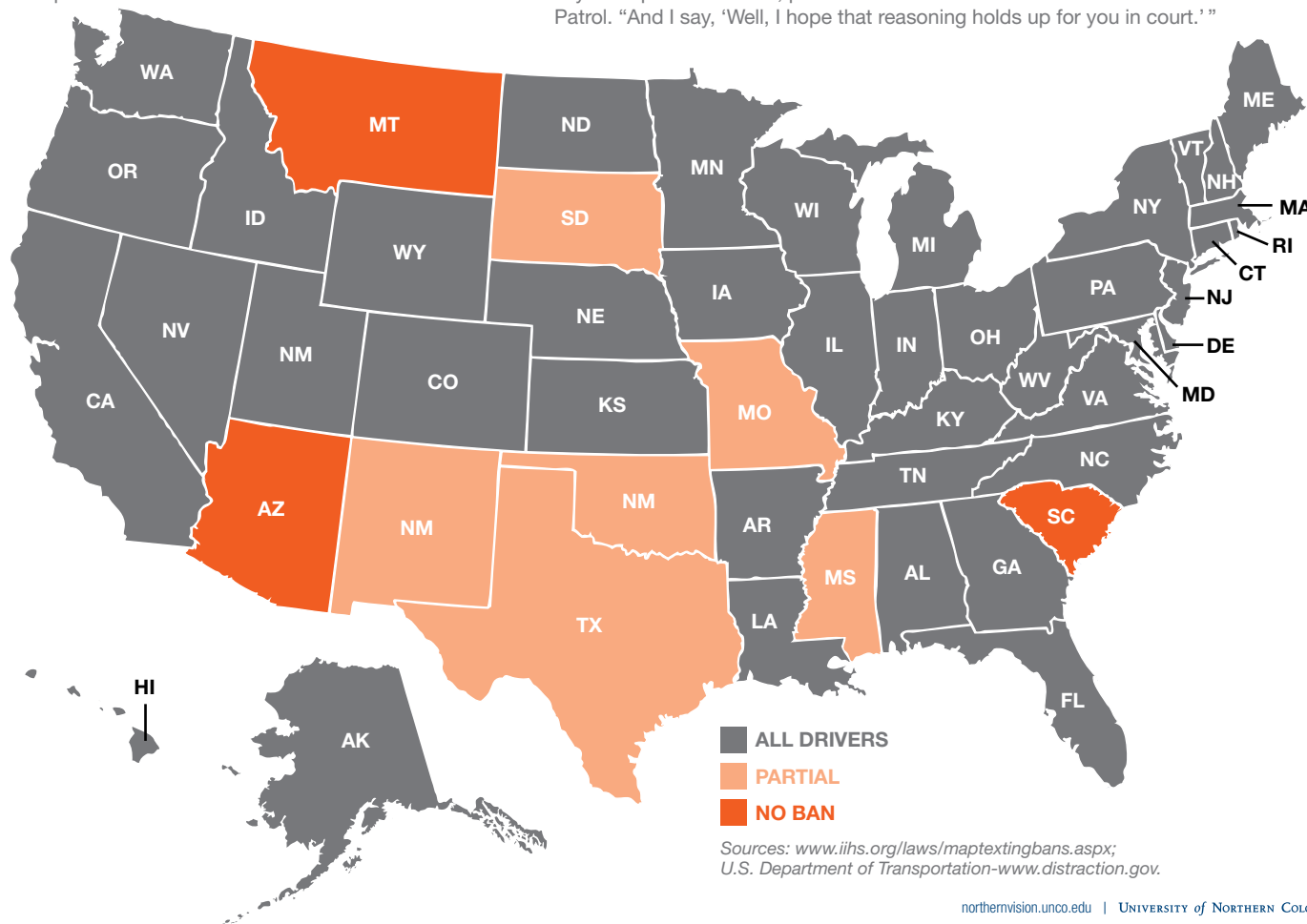
In 2011, **3,331 people were killed** in crashes involving a distracted driver. An additional **387,000 people were injured** in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver.

STATES WITH BANS ON TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

Texting and driving is banned in 41 states, including Colorado, and 12 states ban drivers from using handheld phones while behind the wheel.

But the laws are difficult to enforce and often misunderstood.

“Oftentimes I’ll pull someone over and tell them they can’t operate a vehicle while texting, and they’ll say, ‘I wasn’t texting. I was checking Facebook,’” says Trooper Josh Lewis, public information officer for the Colorado State Patrol. “And I say, ‘Well, I hope that reasoning holds up for you in court.’”





IN THE SPOTLIGHT: The road to stardom started by answering a Craigslist ad. Neyla now travels the United States and abroad with The Lumineers. Tour stops sell out regularly, including this one in September at Red Rocks Amphitheatre, left.

By Dan England, Photography by Barry Guitierrez

LUMINEERS

LUMINARY

Neyla Pekarek (BA-10) trusts her intuition through band's rise to stardom

It was just three years ago when Dana Pekarek walked into her house with her arms full of groceries to find both her daughters, Neyla and Romi, bawling and her husband, Rodger, trying to reason with them.

Neyla wanted to go on tour with a band she joined a year ago after answering a Craigslist ad for a singer and a cellist. Dreams were fine, but the problem was, dreams, or the tour, wouldn't pay off the debt Neyla acquired at UNC, where Rodger graduated in 1970. Neyla had just graduated with a degree in Music Education after switching from studying vocal performance and musical theater a few semesters earlier.

"Dad, I've got a really good feeling about this," Neyla would say over and over. Her parents could see why Neyla liked her bandmates. Wesley Schultz and Jeremiah Fraites were from New York but carried a small-town vibe with them: Colorado seemed to fit them better. They were unpretentious: In Neyla's tryout, they said they liked Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan, not a bunch of edgy underground bands in an attempt to impress her. They were hard workers: They had a catalog of songs at the ready, just one example of many that they were about the music, not the partying, rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

Even so, quite frankly, her parents didn't see what Neyla saw. The band played in dive bars, and when Dana and Rodger went to see their youngest daughter play, the acoustics were always terrible. Rodger had cosigned on the college loan. He had also worked as a letter carrier for almost 40 years and was ready to retire.

But Rodger knew what it was like to work a job, and sure, Neyla could do that. Neyla had a way of surprising them. She began playing cello over her starter instrument, violin, even though it was much bigger than she was. Her freshman year of high school, Neyla was so bashful, when she sang in the school choir, she couldn't look up from the floor. Her sophomore year, her teacher gave her a solo, and she not only looked up, she filled the room, belting it out like she would as a kid when no one but her family was around. It blew them away.

Rodger didn't want Neyla to carry regret like he carried his sack of letters and packages for decades. "I'll give you a year," he told her.

After a year of sleeping on floors and bumming breakfasts from the boys' brothers, the Lumineers released a CD in April 2011. They came back to play the Bluebird Theater in Denver a month later. Her parents just hoped a few people would show up. Instead, they were shocked. They were a completely different band. The crowd was going wild. Dana, who played guitar and sang, thought Neyla was good, but so many others were saying that as well.

"We thought the whole balcony was going to come down," Dana says. "It was the most fun night we've ever had."

That's when it hit them that their daughter was right. Their band was going to be big.

Really, really big.

They were nominated earlier this year for a Grammy for Best New Band, one of the most prestigious awards. You've heard "Ho Hey" at least once because every radio station, from adult contemporary to alternative to all-hits, plays it.

The band didn't develop its sound to sit in the corner pocket of the new folksy, rootsy, quasi-rocky movement led by bands such as Mumford and Sons (though the band respectfully cringes at that comparison). But they came at the right time, just like Def Leppard did back in the '80s when hair metal began to take hold.

The Lumineers are playing all over the world now and have millions of fans. Neyla had to get rid of her Facebook page because it got too crazy.

But it was just a few years ago when Neyla was a singer and a music lover and a bubbly, energetic girl who had both a goofiness that was perfect for children's theater and a quiet intelligence fed by National Public Radio. No one saw "rock star."

"We didn't think she would ever have that courage," Dana says.

She could sing even as a little kid, when she would hit notes that Dana never could, and in private, when only her family watched, she was fun and funny. But as a high school freshman, she was tiny, shy and quiet.

After her solo the next year, which surprised everyone, not just her parents, that shell cracked. She eventually played the lead in her Aurora high school's production of *Les Misérables*.

When she went to UNC to study vocal performance and musical theater, many fell in love with her beaming, positive personality and were surprised to learn that she was once shy. She seemed a natural for children's shows because she was animated and full of energy.



CATCHY TUNES: The Lumineers performed their chart-topping songs “Ho Hey” on *Saturday Night Live* (and also “Stubborn Love” on *SNL*) and at the 2013 Grammy Awards, where they received nominations.





EXPANDED REPERTOIRE: Neyla displays her range of musical talent by contributing on vocals, too, and not only in a backup role. “Falling,” for example, features her in solos.

“She was so great in those kids’ shows,” recalls Mary J. Schuttler, UNC professor of Theater Arts who had Neyla as the lead in one of those plays, *The Incredible Journey of Fenda Maria*. “She was always smiling.”

Classmate Samantha Provenzano got to know Neyla in another children’s play, and the two would meet at 6 a.m. to ride together on a tour of elementary schools.

“She was one of the best people to do that with,” Provenzano says. “She was really funny and had all these crazy voices.”

Still, Provenzano admits to being as surprised as many others when she saw her college friend’s band take off the way it did.

One of Neyla’s best friends since their freshman year in high school, James May went to UNC and pursued musical theater because of her.

“I have a ton of really talented friends, and many deserve success,” May says. “But you know, does it always come out that way? No. I’ve seen Neyla’s band many times, from the times they were playing the house parties and the dive bars and in people’s living rooms, and I’ve always thought they were amazing.

“I think she brings an elegance to the band. It has this folksy, grassroots look to it, but she’s also elegant and beautiful. A lot of other folk bands are uniform, and she stands out in that way.”

Neyla convinced May to audition at UNC after he spent some time at a college in Los Angeles. He loved theater but didn’t consider it a practical choice, even though he knew he had talent.

“She convinced me I was wrong,” says May, who now travels with the national touring production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

Imagine his surprise when Neyla told him, a year-and-a-half into college, that she was switching to Music Education. She was the one who always seemed to love it. But it didn’t seem to fit her. She later told the *Greeley Tribune* that she didn’t think she was good enough. She wasn’t a good dancer, she said in the interview, and she began to think of musicals as a job.

She got her degree in 2010 and spent her last semester student teaching in Littleton’s public schools, where she hoped to forge a nice career. The district wasn’t hiring once her semester ended, but she could be patient. She would find things to keep her busy while working in restaurants.

That’s why she answered the Craigslist ad from two guys who played rootsy, revival music. They wanted a cellist. She didn’t play much cello in college, but she remembered enough from her childhood for wedding gigs that helped pay her bills once she graduated. She’d never played in a band before, but a job was a job.

After a while, the band didn’t seem to be going anywhere, and she told the guys that. They told her they just needed to do one more tour, and if that didn’t work, they could call it good. She couldn’t shake that good vibe about the band, and so she agreed, and that’s how she found herself crying at the kitchen table with her father and her sister when her mother walked in.

After that gig at the Bluebird, Neyla’s parents were right. The Lumineers got big. No one thought the band would get THAT big, though, in such a short time, not even Neyla. It was the kind of rise that inspires VH1 specials, a rise that happens for only a handful of bands every year. The Lumineers played all the talk shows



MEET THE LUMINEERS

Who are they? Wesley Schultz on lead vocals, Jeremiah Fraites on drums and UNC graduate Neyla Pekarek on cello and vocals. Stelth Ulvang (piano) and Ben Wahamaki (bass) joined the band as full-time members in 2012.

What's their sound? Folk, rootsy rock, which has enjoyed somewhat of a revival in the last few years led by Mumford and Sons. The Lumineers don't sound much like Mumford and Sons, however, and their "shout-along" choruses have already inspired other bands such as Mowgli's.

What are their hits? "Ho Hey" is the biggest (it was one of the biggest hits in 2012). Fun fact: Schultz and Fraites wrote "Ho Hey" seven years ago. Others include "Stubborn Love" and "Flowers In Your Hair."

Highlights: The band played *Saturday Night Live*, was nominated for the Best New Artist Grammy as well as Best Americana Album and played sold-out shows around the world.

and "Saturday Night Live." That last gig may have impressed her parents the most. They remember watching SNL before they had Neyla. Now their daughter was on it. "We still find ourselves surprised at it all," Rodger says. "I remember that conversation I had with Wes. 'Just hang with us,' he told us. There wasn't a lot of reason to think success was going to happen. But we're glad we did.

"We're just enjoying the ride like she is."

The ride is fun, though it's also a long and tiring one. The traveling remains exhausting, even if they aren't sleeping on floors any longer. After their shows, there are still times they have to get up early for promotional work. They need to find time to write songs and do sound checks and practice.

"Going from where they were to where they are," Dana says, "there's always going to be stress. Sleep is their biggest thing right now. It's hard to come by."

Neyla could gripe. But you could also say her life is like a Broadway dream come true.

"We're playing music for a living," she told the *Tribune*. "I'm very aware that I now have the best job in the world."

Besides, Neyla seems to be handling it well, her parents said. She finds yoga studios to drop into and brings healthy food with her on the tour bus. She uses a juicer a lot.

"She told us the other day, 'I'm not into all the nightclubs and meeting all the big celebrities,'" Dana says.

She never was. She values her time alone.

"She's still the exact same girl," says May, who has been her friend as long as anyone. "Her life has changed a ton, but Neyla hasn't changed."

Well, Neyla's changed in one way since her days in high school.

Perhaps May's favorite video of the Lumineers comes from "Falling," not one of the Lumineers' bigger hits. Neyla usually plays her cello and sings backup, but in those videos, she sings for the first time, and the crowd goes crazy.

It reminded him of the time when Neyla was that tiny sophomore who looked like she belonged in sixth grade, singing that solo in concert. She was no longer looking at the floor.

"It floored all of us," May says, "and you can hear that same reaction from the audience."

In that video, Neyla's looking out to the audience, her head held high, with a big grin on her face. That shy girl disappeared long ago.

In her place now is a rock star. **NV**



FAMILY SCRAPBOOK: Neyla, pictured with her parents above, didn't play cello in college, but remembered enough from her childhood to land with The Lumineers.

Photos courtesy of Rodger and Dana Pekarek



ON STAGE AT UNC: Neyla starred in productions of *The Incredible Jungle Journey of Fenda Maria* and *The Tomato Plant Girl*.

Photos courtesy of David Grapes / UNC

DISTORTION

U N L I M I T E D



MAKING MONSTERS

Tucked away in a nondescript warehouse on 13th Street in Greeley, Distortions Unlimited's scary monster designs include everything from zombies to demonic babies. Yet the most interesting part of the business is its owners.

Ed and Marsha (Taub) Edmunds, who met as students at UNC, have been creating monsters for 35 years. Their, um, body of work includes designs at amusement parks, haunted houses and retail stores all over the world. Some of their most recognizable creations have appeared in movies (*Alien 3* and *Batman*) and on music sets (Alice Cooper's Brutal Planet tour).



“We really do a wide spectrum of stuff,” Marsha says in a campaign promoting Greeley, www.greeleyunexpected.com.

Ed says that all of the projects require excruciating amounts of time. During a recent tour, he explained some of the more complicated designs.

“The last project I worked on was a giant 25-foot skeleton. In terms of difficulty, all of my projects are hard,” Ed says.

While Ed and Marsha were students at UNC, they made masks for a local novelty store. Word spread of their amazing monster designs, and they eventually made Distortions, founded in 1978, into what it is today.

Their business has become so popular that the Travel Channel gave Ed and Marsha their own TV show, *Making Monsters*. Season Two began airing Sept. 29. **NV**

—Nick Evans

BEHIND THE SCENES:

The creations by Ed and Marsha Edmunds, opposite page, have appeared in movies, music sets and led to a Travel Channel TV show, *Making Monsters*.

Cody Moskalski, above, serves as a tour guide at Distortions Unlimited’s facility. The freshman in UNC’s School of Art & Design has worked at Distortions since high school.

Photos by Nicolette Bardos

📷 More photos and clips from the TV show at www.travelchannel.com/tv-shows/making-monsters



Photo courtesy of Denver Post

By Mike Chambers (BA-90)

FURNITURE MOGUL SHIFTS GEARS TO NASCAR CIRCUIT

BARNEY VISSER'S favorite thing to do has nothing to do with furniture or racing. He loves to play with his two grandchildren, and is excited about two more on the way. He's become interested in farming, with two farms outside Denver, and he's very passionate about growing food in the U.S. and not outsourcing America's food supplies. He started a new family business, Visser Precision Cast, an advanced metals manufacturing company. His motive with this venture is to bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S.

—Mike Chambers

Visionary businessman and NASCAR team owner Barney Visser has fond memories of UNC. He attended the school in 1970 and was a defensive lineman on the Bears' football team. He met a lifelong friend in assistant coach Vince Zimmer, and he was introduced to his wife of 41 years, Carolyn, a 1971 UNC graduate.

But what the Furniture Row owner remembers most about Greeley was the care and comfort the city provided upon his return from Vietnam.

"UNC was a great place to come back and get your head straight from Vietnam. Not a huge amount of anti-war resentment," Visser says. "Laid back. Some guys came back to major cities and had real trouble."

The GI Bill paid for Visser's education, but it didn't last long. During his first year in Greeley, he lost his scholarship for taking 11 credit hours in the spring, one fewer than the minimum to remain eligible for athletics. He dropped out and returned to Denver, his hometown, to mow lawns for the summer. Ultimately, he dove into the furniture business, establishing Furniture Row, which has 75 centers nationally. And he introduced Denver-based Furniture Row Racing to the southeastern-dominated NASCAR in 2005.

"Apparently I couldn't add to 12," Visser says with a laugh. "I really wasn't cut out for school." And he wasn't going to miss playing football. "I got to play enough to know it wasn't for



TRACK PRESENCE: Visser, a racetrack regular, talks with driver Kurt Busch at Daytona. Furniture Row Racing is the only NASCAR team based outside of the Carolinas and relies on the same trucks that transport the store's fabric to deliver engines, chassis and parts to its headquarters north of Denver. *Photos courtesy of Furniture Row Racing*

me,” he says. “After I got some of the anger and frustration out about Vietnam, I didn’t have the enthusiasm for it that I might have had.”

Visser’s enthusiasm was retail, and he introduced the world to big, poofy pillows in the 1970s (Pillow Kingdom) and water beds in the 1980s (Big Sur Waterbeds). Ultimately, he created or bought Sofa Mart, Oak Express, Bedroom Expressions, Denver Mattress Company and The Linen Shoppe and created Furniture Row.

In 2000, shortly before he began his trail-blazing NASCAR team, Furniture Row Racing, he authored a book about his experiences in the war: “Vietnam: Fresh, Positive Insights for All Who Suffered Loss in the Vietnam War.”

Barney and Carolyn have raised seven children, reside in Cherry Hills Village and are approaching their 41st anniversary. After establishing Furniture Row, Visser semi-retired and needed a hobby that didn’t include golf. He bought a race car that had been used at Colorado National Speedway after seeing it listed in a newspaper ad. Visser had never been to the short oval north of Denver, or even been behind the wheel of a race car, but once he had, he was hooked. He met a local legend, driver Jerry Robertson, and, with the blessing of Furniture Row’s marketing department, began to pour millions into a race team that made its NASCAR Sprint Cup Series debut in 2005.

This year, with driver Kurt Busch, Furniture Row Racing is the first single-car team to make the Chase for the Sprint Cup Championship, the 10-race playoffs consisting of just 12 drivers (13 this year). The team is the only one of its kind based outside the Carolinas, and every week it uses a truck that transports fabric for Denver Mattress to deliver engines, chassis and parts from North Carolina to team headquarters in north Denver, at the 34,000-foot warehouse formerly known as Big Sur Waterbeds.

Visser owns two private jets and gets himself and his team to the races in style. He said he used to make about 80 percent of the races but now makes almost all of them because he knows the little team that most people used to laugh about can now win.

“I never understood why they said you couldn’t do it,” Visser says of creating a NASCAR team in the West. “To me, it was just transportation, and I felt like we could attract good people to Colorado, and we have.”

“Barney Visser is one of the finest and most committed men I have ever dealt with in this sport.”

— Richard Childress, president and CEO of Richard Childress Racing

“The fact that I’ve proven people wrong doesn’t really mean anything to me. Just knowing that we can win every time we can go to a race track — really knowing it — is just huge for me. It adds a lot of thrill to the game. It’s a lot of fun.”

Visser attended Denver Christian through his junior year in high school, and then transferred to Thomas Jefferson High School, which had split sessions at the time. He went to school from 7 a.m. to noon and then worked at a nearby Safeway from 1 to 10 p.m.

After volunteering for Vietnam in 1967 and serving as a paratrooper rigging parachutes, he used the Army GI bill to attend UNC, where he walked on to the football team, despite not playing in high school.

Visser became lifelong friends with Zimmer, who died in 2005 at age 66.

“He was worth the trip up to Greeley alone,” Visser says of the defensive line coach. “Great guy.”

Visser is considered a great guy in the NASCAR pits.

“Barney Visser is one of the finest and most committed men I have ever dealt with in this sport,” says Richard Childress, president and CEO of Richard Childress Racing, the team Dale Earnhardt and other famous racers drove for. “He has brought a lot to this sport.”

Childress and Visser are unofficial partners through a technical alliance, which includes technology sharing, engineering and research development provided to Furniture Row Racing by Richard Childress Racing.

“The strong team he has assembled out in Colorado (and) seeing them make the Chase for the first time this year shows how successful this partnership has become,” Childress says. “I believe we’ll have similar success in 2014 and beyond.” **NV**

HONORED ALUMNI & Service Awards

The University of Northern Colorado boasts outstanding alumni and dedicated friends from all walks of life. Each year, the UNC Alumni Association recognizes some of the most distinguished alumni and friends at the Honored Alumni and Service Awards celebration during Homecoming weekend. The Honored Alumni and Service Awards are the highest awards the Alumni Association can bestow. Selected by the Alumni Association Board of Directors, these awards date back to 1947.



ALUMNI SPIRIT AWARD: JAMES KAWIKA RILEY, BA-05

“James is a mentor to his students, as well as his friends and colleagues.”

—NATHAN HAVEY, A FELLOW UNC ALUMNUS



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: RONNA L. SANCHEZ BA-80, BS-82, MA-88, PHD-00

“Ronna left an indelible mark on the university that she loved and served.”

—JAY DINGES, UNIVERSITY CENTER DIRECTOR



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD: STEVE BAKER, BA-86

“Steve is an exemplary picture of what an alum should and could do for their alma mater.”

—CHALICE SPRINGFIELD, CEO OF SEARS REAL ESTATE IN GREELEY



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD: RICHARD KILLMER, BA-60

“Richard has been revered by an endless number of students and professionals throughout the United States and other countries.”

—KENNETH EVANS, EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF MUSIC AT UNC



DISTINGUISHED HONORARY ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARD: HANK AND NAN BROWN

“They have an extraordinary commitment to public service that has bettered all of our lives.”

—DICK MONFORT, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

📌 Please visit www.uncalumni.org to read the biographies, watch the tribute videos or to nominate alumni and friends deserving of these honors. A full listing of past honorees is also available online.

Class Notes

Compiled and edited by Margie Meyer

1950s

Ray Kilmer (BA-59, MA-63, EdD-73), Colorado Springs, was named to the Lewis-Palmer School District 38 (Monument) Hall of Fame in September. He is the former superintendent of the school.

1960s



Winfield Rummell (BA-60, MA-64) and **Aaron Bor** (EdD-97), Chico, Calif., are pictured after winning the men's doubles competition at the West Alamo Invitational Tennis Championships. Winfield (left) and

Aaron (right) are emeritus professors from California State University in Chico.

Patricia Gibson (BA-66), Austin, Texas, serves as an adjunct lecturer in the College of Applied Arts at Texas State University-San Marcos. She completed her doctorate at Northcentral University in June.

Richard Newman (BA-66), Laurens, S.C., retired after spending 46 years teaching and coaching at the intercollegiate level. For the last 16 years of his career, he served as chair of the Physical Education department at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C.

1970s

Dwight Grisham (MA-73, EdD-80), Berkeley, Calif., is a licensed psychologist. He has completed 25 years as the owner/director of the Couples in Conflict Clinic in San Francisco. For the last 10 years, he has been board certified with the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, holding a Certificate of Professional Qualification.

Michael Lucas (BA-73), Wasila, Alaska, has earned accreditation as a National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) Master Flight Instructor. Mike has been a

public school teacher in Kuskokwim Delta for 24 years and a pilot in Alaska since 1985.

Toni (Gresham) Pierce (BA-73) retired after 38 years as an elementary music specialist—15 years in Lewiston, Idaho, and 23 years in Clarkston, Wash.

Carolyn “Smitty” (Smith) Hughes (BA-73) is chief of social work services at the newly constructed Las Vegas VA Medical Center. She was recognized for redesigning services offered to homeless veterans into one of the top performing VA programs in the country.

Gary Hughes (BA-74, MA-78, EdD-89), North Las Vegas, Nev., is chief of research and analysis for the Defense Language Institute-Foreign Language Center in Monterey, Calif. He leads a team of linguists, psychologists and operations researchers that design, assess and propose methods for selecting, teaching, training and applying independent learning strategies for military and civilian personnel to become linguists in more than 26 foreign languages.

Cathy Sullivan (BA-75), Holyoke, retired from 37 years of teaching at Re-IJ (Holyoke) School District. During her career, she taught sixth and fourth grades and Title I students. Cathy and her husband, Steve, have two children.



Katherine Archuleta (MA-76), Alexandria, Va., was nominated by President Barack Obama as director of the Office of Personnel Management. Katherine previously served under the

administration of Federico Peña in his roles as mayor of Denver and U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

Henry Mondragon (MA-76), Golden, retired in January after 32 years of service to Colorado veterans. During his career, he worked for the Colorado Department of Labor, Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and for Arapahoe and Jefferson counties. Henry received the Outstanding Veterans Service Officer Award at the United Veterans Committee of Colorado banquet in April.

Debra Wilcox (BA-77), Centennial, and **Kenton Kuhn** (BA-78), Denver, opened The 3D Printing Store, the first retail store in the U.S. to offer 3-D printing to consumers, hobbyists and professionals.



FORMER COACH STILL ON SIDELINES
Longtime coach **Thurm Wright** (BA-51) still motivates students to be their best, although he retired more than 20 years ago.

Today, he's motivating them through a new \$50,000 endowed scholarship.

Thurm's affiliation with UNC began in 1948 when he arrived from Richmond, Ind. He played first base for three years. The 1949 team was District 7 Champions and the first to play in what was to become the College World Series. This team was the first baseball team to be inducted into the UNC Athletics Hall of Fame. Thurm played basketball for four years and served as team captain his senior year. He assisted the team in defeating Montana State in 1949 to win the Rocky Mountain Conference Championship. After serving in the Army, marrying Margaret (a UNC alumna and daughter of science professor Fred Herman), and teaching and coaching in Indiana and South Dakota for a few years, Thurm returned to UNC as an assistant basketball and baseball coach. He eventually became head coach for both sports. He relinquished his baseball coaching career after three years and continued coaching men's basketball for approximately 20 years. He taught and coached high school and college for 36 years before retiring in 1989.

Thurm is still a presence on campus, attending numerous games and events. He recently sang for volunteers who were stuffing envelopes for a student-athlete fundraiser and often sings to residents at local assisted living centers (Margaret died in 2011.) While at UNC, Thurm worked with coaching legends John W. Hancock and Pete Butler. "They were like second fathers to me." Thurm provided the same support for his players.

"You always hope you did something right in working with young men. I've had a number of them come back and tell me that I did."

His younger brother Bill (BA-57, MA-61) followed Thurm's footsteps to CSC, playing on the 1953, 1955, and 1957 UNC Hall of Fame baseball teams. Bill had two state championship basketball teams at Mitchell High School in Colorado Springs. He was inducted into the Colorado High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1995 and is still involved in the sport.

Last year, Thurm established The Thurm and Bill Wright Men's Athletic Scholarship to support baseball and basketball players in honor of his and his brother's UNC experience.

"I can't think of a better way to help future students than making a donation to the university that has played an important part in our lives."

— Amy Dressel-Martin

Ranee Brayton (BS-78), Kirksville, Mo., is chief executive officer of Northeast Regional Medical Center in Kirksville. Ranee earned an MBA at William Woods University and is a board certified fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Mike Pierce (BS-78), Fort Collins, has joined Flood and Peterson, one of the region's largest insurance brokers, as a sales executive for large commercial businesses. Mike has worked as an independent insurance agent and agency principal for more than 20 years. He has served on the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce board, was past board chair of the Wyoming & Northern Colorado Better Business Bureau, launched the Colorado State University Legacy of Champion Scholarship Program for the Athletics Department and founded the Salt & Pepper Lunch Club. He received CSU's Distinguished Athletic Award and the Larry LaSasso Spirit Award in 2009.

Neil Argo (MA-79), Scottsdale, Ariz., has worked in the television and film industry for the past 28 years. The latest film to feature his work, *Chavez: Cage of Glory*, premiered in Hollywood in September. Neil made a lasting contribution to the educational resources at UNC by donating a collection of his commercial compositions to the music library.

1980s

John Borman (BA-80, BAE-86, MA-97), Centennial, is the superintendent of Lewis-Palmer School District 38 in Monument. John previously served as principal at Lewis-Palmer High School, principal at Northridge High School in Greeley and assistant principal, athletic director and English teacher at Greeley Central High School.

JR (Melvin) Kessler, Jr. (BA-80), Abilene, Texas, was awarded a doctorate degree in communication in May from the School of Communication and the Arts at Regent University.

Michael Heberling (MS-81), Grand Blanc, Mich., is president of the Baker College for Graduate Studies in Flint, Mich., and president of the Council of College and Military Educators. He retired as a lieutenant colonel after 21 years of service with the Air Force, logging 1,500 hours of flying time in the B-52H Stratofortress Bomber. In April, Michael was invited to participate in a White House forum on

issues surrounding military credentialing and college credit.



Denise Burgess (BA-82) president and general manager of Burgess Services, shared her secrets on becoming a millionaire in *Ebony* magazine's annual Black Wealth issue. Her company

has worked on construction projects for Denver International Airport, Denver Justice Center and Denver's Wellington E. Webb Municipal Office Building.

George "Jorge" Daukantas (MA-82), Boston, a candidate for the Harvard Extension School Alumni Relations Chair, recently earned a master's degree in Education with emphasis in Technologies of Education. He has published articles on web tools for teachers in *The Journal for Computing Teachers* and on the topic of mental health care under HMOs for the U.S. Department of Education. His memberships include The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Veterans of Foreign Wars honor roll and the International Society for Technologists of Education.

JoAnn (Ferris) Mueller (MA-82), Greeley, and her husband, Don, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August.

Christie Einspahr (MA-88), Littleton, retired from public schools in August 2012. She enjoys writing and teaching and hopes to mentor new teachers.

1990s

Darrin Anderson (BA-91, MA-94), Gilbert, Ariz., was promoted to regional director for Imagine Schools, Inc., and will oversee elementary and secondary schools in Arizona and California with an emphasis on operations and logistics. He has been a school administrator for nearly 15 years.

Renae Fierros-Conn (BS-91), Aurora, was appointed president of the south chapter of the National Association of Professional Women. Renae serves as the director of information systems and technology at First Western Trust in Denver.

Kimberly (Ponis) Greason (BA-93), Arvada, won a 2013 Heartland Regional Emmy Award for the documentary *Broomfield: Spirit of the American Dream*.



LIFESAVING ACT RESULTS IN MEDAL FOUR DECADES LATER

It took 41 years, and a lot of work to find the right person, but alumnus **Red Sundine** (BA-66) finally got the medal he deserved.

Sundine, an ROTC graduate of Colorado State College (now UNC), spent six years as a pilot in the Air Force and 30 years with Continental Airlines.

His life-saving moment came one day in 1972 when he took his sons fishing near a river in northern California. "We were walking along a pretty dangerous area of the river, where it was very rough water, and a little girl came up to us, crying. She led us to the river's edge and there was her brother, in the water, unconscious."

Sundine jumped into the raging river, pulled the boy out, and began artificial respiration. It revived the boy, and saved his life. It was then Sundine learned the boy's father had jumped into the river to save his son. Sundine went back into the river, found the father's body, but the father couldn't be revived ashore.

Several years later, for his efforts in saving the son's life, Sundine received the Air Force Commendation Medal.

The boy's mother, Silvia Mayo, had worked for years to get the Airman's Medal for Sundine, but without an eyewitness, the military couldn't give the highest award for saving a life. Finally, the man who was fishing with Sundine that day, Civil Air Patrol Lt. Col. Melvin Bridges, was located, and sent his eyewitness account to the Air Force.

The medal ceremony Sept. 25 in Congressman Ed Perlmutter's office in Denver brought tears to the eyes of Sundine, who now lives in Parker. He is active in the Greatest Generation program, which works to take World War II, Korean and Vietnam veterans to Washington, D.C., to see the memorials their country has erected for them.

"This is the highest medal he could be awarded in a non-military action," says Sundine's friend Roy Miller. "It ranks higher than even the Bronze Star."

—Mike Peters (BA-68)



This is Kimberly's second Heartland Emmy nomination and her first win. She works as manager of video production for KCCB Channel 8 in Broomfield, and previously worked for Greeley's TCI

cable channel and as a sports reporter/anchor in Texas, Alabama and Florida.

Christine Aguilar (BA-94), Livermore, is principal of Shawsheen Elementary School in Greeley.

Natalie Palmer (BS-96, MA-99), Spokane, Wash., was elected lieutenant governor Education and Training for District 9 of Toastmasters International, leading 800-plus members in 63 Toastmasters clubs in eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon and northern Idaho.

Jason Soltani (BA-97, MA-00), Ordway, and his wife, Joy, announced the arrival of their second daughter, Genesis Savannah, who was born in June.

Bridget (Troxel) Peck (BS-98), Mitchell, Neb., is an assistant vice president at Nationstar Mortgage. She is an active member of Panhandle Business and Professional Women and was named its Woman of the Year. Bridget serves on the boards of the Scottsbluff Country Club, Saint Agnes School Foundation and Joyful Noise at Gering Zion, as well as several volunteer committees for United Way of Western Nebraska. Bridget's husband **Jeff Peck** (BA-98) owns and operates Intralinks Inc., a technology consulting firm. They have two children.

Elizabeth Haller (BA-99), Aberdeen, S.D., is a professor of literature at Northern State University in South Dakota. Each summer she designs and leads a university study abroad tour of literary locations in Ireland, Scotland and England.

Jennifer Sheldon (BA-99), Windsor, is principal at Monfort Elementary School in Greeley.

2000s

Damian Brown (BA-00), Aurora, is the athletic director at Adams City High School. Damian previously taught physical education in the Denver Public Schools system.

Maile Green (BS-02), Broomfield works for Pacific Quest in its innovative wellness team on the Big Island of Hawaii. Maile received her Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine and Master of Science in Acupuncture from Bastyr University. She previously worked at Boulder Natural Health, University of Colorado Health North and HospiceCare in Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

Michael Mazurana (MA-02), Fort Collins, is the first-ever elementary school principal at University Schools in Greeley. Michael worked at school districts from Brighton to Fort Collins before returning to his roots in Greeley.

Nicole Peterson (BA-02, MA-09), Greeley, is principal of Brentwood Middle School in Greeley.

Corrie Sears (MS-03), Richmond, Va., is the assistant athletics director for marketing at the University of Minnesota. Corrie previously held positions at Virginia Commonwealth University and CSU.

Blair Brotemarkle (BS-04), Evans, was featured on a "Jaywalking" segment of *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* while vacationing in Los Angeles.

Brandi McWilliams (BA-04), McPherson, Kan., teaches English at Inman High School in Inman, Kan. She was spotlighted on Apple's website for incorporating the one-to-one iPad program into her classroom.

Katrina Rodriguez (PhD-04), Evans, was awarded the 2012-13 Wise Woman Award by the American College Personnel Association's Standing Committee for Women. Katrina is UNC's assistant vice president for Student Engagement and the dean of students.



Chad Chisholm (BA-05, BA-08), Denver, was published in the June issue of *Islands* magazine with his photography accompanying a story by Kate Parham. He photographed their journey to Kangaroo Island, Australia. This was Chad's first appearance in the national publication.

Bryson Lillie (BA-06), Fort Collins, serves as associate pastor of First United Methodist Church and as pastor of Wellington United Methodist Fellowship. He graduated from Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo.



PURSUING HIS DREAM WITH NASA'S INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Jordan Aken (BS-12) beat out 600 other applicants, some with master's degrees, for a position with Boeing Co. as a flight integration engineer for the International Space Station.

Aken is part of a team that verifies the space-worthiness of hardware destined for the U.S. side of the ISS via re-supply missions. He also helps track requests for NASA-approved modifications, repairs and upgrades to the station and writes detailed instructions for implementing them.

He credits landing his dream job with his space research at UNC — he was part of a student team that traveled to NASA's Wallops Flight Facility to watch a payload they built launch into space on a sub-orbital rocket — and the faculty in the Physics program.

"UNC prepared me for this job by giving me technical knowledge, unique opportunities and encouraging instructors that were always there for me and wanted to help me succeed," Aken says.

📖 Read more about Aken at www.unco.edu/news/?5599



INSTAGRAM

If you're one of the nearly 100 million active monthly users of the photo app Instagram, then you're probably already familiar

with the work of **Mackey Saturday** (BA-07). He was commissioned with the delicate task of redesigning the logo of the popular social media platform. Saturday talks about the project in an interview with the Alumni Association on The UNC Bear Den Blog.

📖 Read his story and others at www.uncbear.tumblr.com



Gina Lichte (MA-08), Eudora, Kan., is the director of leadership and education at the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators

(NACWAA). Gina previously served as student services coordinator at the University Missouri-Kansas City, director of new student orientation at UNC and membership coordinator for the UNC Alumni Association.



Chris Watney (MA-06), president and CEO of Colorado Children's Campaign, shares her story and path to her current position leading the research and advocacy

organization for children in the state. Find her story and others at: www.unco.edu/life/stories

Andy Bokelman (BA-09), Craig, is a reporter with *The Craig Daily Press*.

2010s

Leslie R. Dias (BA-10), Lafayette, was accepted into the Peace Corps Office of University Partnerships Master's International program at the University of Denver's Joseph Korbel School. She is combining her studies with 27 months of service in Morocco with the Peace Corps.

Martha Davis-Goldstein (MS-10), Shrewsbury, Mo., is the head women's tennis coach at Webster University in St. Louis. Martha joined the Webster Athletic Department in 2010 as assistant to the athletic director and tennis coach.

Jamie Lloyd (BA-10, MA-13), Stillwater, Okla., works at Oklahoma State University as a housing coordinator.

Christopher Viger (BA-10), Louisville, graduated from U.S. Army basic infantry training at Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga.

Derek Cisneros (BA-11), Colorado Springs, completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Dan Larson (BA-12), Greeley, was the featured participant in "Rush Josh Run," a 24-hour fundraiser in April at the University of Wyoming. The event benefited UW's Engineers Without Borders chapter to help disadvantaged communities in Kenya. Dan is majoring in petroleum engineering at UW.

Devin Pace (BA-12), Greeley, completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.



Photos by **Tracey Clay** (BA-13) capturing life in Tanzania during a humanitarian trip were recently selected by the World Affairs Council of Northern California for a six-week exhibit in San Francisco. The Anthropology major immersed herself in the culture, playing with school children, sleeping in traditional huts and riding along "red dusty roads in the Serengeti shooting pictures of lions, elephants and other wildlife," she writes. "Despite all these fantastic experiences, the most vivid, most life-changing moment for me wasn't any of those. It was the time spent in the homes of families affected by HIV. More specifically the home of Glory and Pedro, a couple who got married after each of their previous spouses passed away from HIV. They themselves both have HIV as well and are fully aware that they will one day succumb to the disease. Despite this reality, they are unable to plan for the futures of their five children because they continuously struggle with everyday necessities." See more of her photos and read about her experiences at traceyclayphotography.wordpress.com.



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AS A CAMPUS HANGOUT

A stone's throw from campus, Roma Restaurant is celebrating its 25th anniversary as a campus hangout. Graduates **Jonathan** and **Jamie Shaw** (pictured with their daughter, Elizabeth, above) purchased Roma in 2005 and have continued its proud tradition.

For five straight years, the Italian restaurant has won the *Greeley Tribune's* Best Pizza, Lunch and Take-Out in addition to consistently being among *The Mirror* student newspaper's Best of for Pizza, Lunch, Dinner and Italian. A featured item and local favorite, the "Nutty Idea" pizza, drew "Most Bizarre Pizza Topping" by the *Huffington Post* for ingredients that include cashews, cream cheese, pepperoni, mozzarella and tomatoes.

Jon (BA-95, MAT-06) studied journalism at UNC and later earned an Elementary Teaching License and Master's Degree in Elementary Education. He also worked in catering and studied in Italy (working at a pizza joint there) but never dreamed of owning the restaurant he frequented as an undergrad. After teaching in Denver Public Schools, he began working at UNC's School of Teacher Education as off-campus program manager, a position he still holds, and relocated to Greeley. The posters of well-known bands that adorn Roma's walls are from a collection of more than 400 concerts that Jon promoted for a California production company after graduation.

Jamie (BA-98, MA-07) has taught at schools in Colorado and has managed restaurants in San Diego and Denver. When possible, she enjoys working at the front of the house at Roma.

Interestingly, Roma was originally a church, built in 1920. It has been Roma since October of 1988. Roma Restaurants began in Denver and now only two remain, both in Greeley.

Carey Davis (BS-13), Colorado Springs, was commissioned as second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in May.

Sean Miller (BS-13), Greeley, was commissioned as second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in December.

Degree Decoder: B.A. - Bachelor of Arts; B.S. - Bachelor of Science; B.M. - Bachelor of Music; B.M.E. - Bachelor of Music Education; L.C. - Limited Certificate; M.A. - Master of Arts; M.S. - Master of Science; M.A.T. - Master of Arts in Teaching; M.M. - Master of Music; M.P.H. - Master of Public Health; Ph.D. - Doctor of Philosophy; Psy.D. - Doctor of Psychology; Ed.D. - Doctor of Education; D.A. - Doctor of Arts; D.N.P.-Doctor of Nursing Practice; Ed.S. - Educational Specialist

On Stage

The following graduates of the School of Theatre Arts and Dance advanced their careers by being cast in productions, hired for technical or teaching positions or earning awards during the last three months of 2012 and the first three months of 2013.



Molly Fahey-Matonti can currently be found playing the role of the “Bikini Girl” in the new Grand Theft Auto V video game. The game, which was released last week and has already achieved a billion dollars in sales. Visit www.uncbearden.tumblr.com for a Q&A with Molly.



Keir Kirkgaard is in the cast in the international tour of the musical *Barbie Live!*, playing Danny “Two Step.” After opening in Singapore in late-August, the year-long tour will include stops in Australia and other Southeast Asia venues.

Jenny Fellner filmed an episode of the television series *Blue Bloods* after completing a two-year run in the Broadway production of *Wicked* and before joining the second national tour of the blockbuster musical.

Josh Buscher started previews for the new musical *Big Fish* at the Neil Simon Theatre in New York City. It's his third Broadway show since he graduated in 2008.

Andy Kelso, who has been performing in the ensemble of *Kinky Boots* on Broadway, made his first appearance covering Charlie Price, one of two leading male roles, from Aug. 27-Sept. 3 and appears on the original cast album of the musical. He also performed as part of the casts of *Motown* and *Kinky Boots* on the Tony Awards telecast on CBS and with the cast of the Broadway musical *Motown* on July 4 as part of the annual PBS television special *A Capitol Fourth Concert* from Washington, D.C.

Andrea Dora Smith joined Andy Kelso and the cast of *Motown* on July 4 as part of the annual PBS television special *A Capitol Fourth Concert*, as well as on the Tony Awards telecast as part of the casts of *Motown* and *Kinky Boots*. She also was with the cast of *Motown — The Musical* that appeared on *Good Morning America* on April 4.

Kristin Skye Hoffmann is directing a production of *Red Light Winter* at the New School of Drama in New York City. The production, which is part of the New Visions Festival, will be performed on Nov. 1.

Nathaniel Shaw, who served as the associate choreographer for the hit Broadway musical *Once*, has been hired to serve in the same capacity for the national tour.

Devon Buchanan was in a recent episode of the TV series *Orange is the New Black*.

Tiffany (Van Cott) Eaton filmed an episode of the TV series *Parks and Recreation*.

Ryan Grassmeyer appears in the new film *May the Best Man Win* and can also be seen in a national commercial for Mercury Insurance.

Alexander Stein can be seen in the soon-to-be-released film comedy *The Last American Guido*.

Anthony Reimer, Brian Watkins and **Ben Newman** performed Watkin's play *High Plains* at the annual International Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mike Ruckles has been hired for his first Broadway gig, serving as associate musical director of the new musical *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* at the Walter Kerr Theatre in New York City.

• For more “On Stage” visit northernvision.unco.edu



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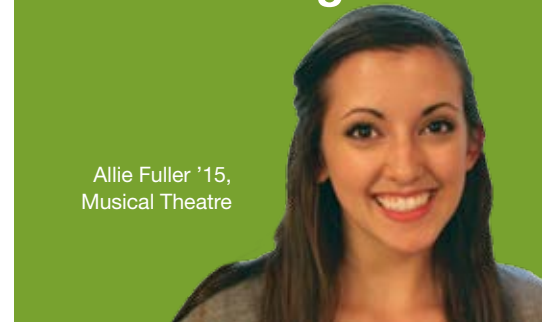
Submit photos electronically at 300 dpi or greater.

I want them to think in
rich and
complex ways.



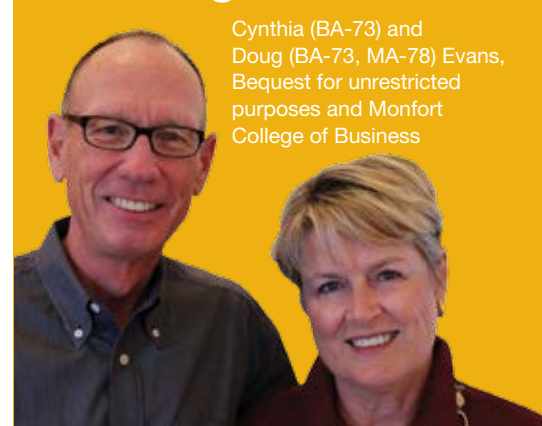
Dr. Gabriel Ramón Serna,
Higher Education &
Student Affairs Leadership

I want to create something
meaningful.



Allie Fuller '15,
Musical Theatre

We want to invest in
future generations.



Cynthia (BA-73) and
Doug (BA-73, MA-78) Evans,
Bequest for unrestricted
purposes and Monfort
College of Business

You can support a UNC education
in the future by making a gift
through your estate plan.

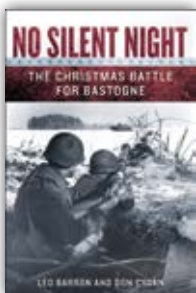
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Book Notes

Published works by alumni, faculty, staff and students

Compiled and edited by Margie Meyer



Don Cygan (BA-86), Parker, is co-author of *No Silent Night: The Christmas Battle for Bastogne*, a historical narrative of one of the most famous events of World War II. Don teaches history at Douglas County School District.

NAL Hardcover 2012



From a Dead Sleep is the first novel written by **John Daly** (BS-96), Greeley. John writes a national column on political, cultural and media topics for the website of Bernard Goldberg and a weekly online column about fatherhood for the *Greeley Tribune*. He and his wife have two children.

BQB Publishing June 2013



Josh Divine (BS-12), Colorado Springs, is the author of a science fiction novel, *The Revival*. Josh is attending Harvard Law School.

Create Space Independent Publishing Platform, 2012



Leo Dunn (BA-10), Simi Valley, Calif., has written his first in a series of young adult fiction novels. *Cordillera: The Wayward Kin*, written under Leo's pen name L. Benedict Dunn IV, is a tale that follows the lives of princes as they travel across the Kingdom of Cordillera.

Silver Tongue Press, 2013

ADDITIONAL BOOK NOTES

Gregory Conderman (EdD-89), Dekalb, Ill. published *Strategy Instruction for Middle and Secondary Students with Mild Disabilities: Creating Independent Learners*. Corwin, 2013

Barry Kolman (DA-85), Staunton, Va., wrote *The Language of Music Revealed*, a music fundamentals book geared to the non-musician. Barry is music director and conductor of the Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra and guest conducts around the world.

Universal Publishers 2012

Thomas Koziara (BA-04), Niles, Ill., published *Polish Vocabulary Volume I and II*, *German Vocabulary I, German Vocabulary I and II*, *Łaciński Słownictwo Tom I and II*, *Russian Vocabulary Volumes I and II*, and *Rally With Me: Poetry of the Markets Volumes I-V*.

Auriferia S.A., 2013

Steve Western (BA-78), Coos Bay, Ore., published an ebook *Why Do We Have to Learn This Crap? Twenty-Five Days in the Life of a Basic-Math Teacher*. 2013

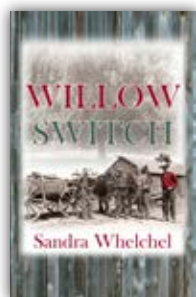
UNC faculty member **Ken Womble** published *Inside Act: How Twelve Actors Made It and How You Can Too*. Hansen Publishing Group, 2013

Gregory Denman (BA-72), Colorado Springs, published *Think It, Show It Science and Think It, Show It Mathematics*. Shell Education Publish, 2013



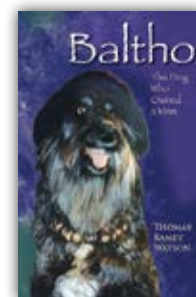
Ronald Hixson (MA-79), Eagle Pass, Texas, has retired from private practice as a psychotherapist. His book, *Endangered Private Practice: Surviving Health Care Reform*, provides a clearer picture of what health care services might look like in the next seven years.

Publisher Jason Aronson Inc., 2013



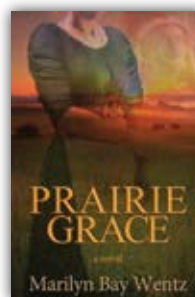
Sandra Wheelchel (BA-66), Parker, announced her fourth novel, *Willow Switch*, a historical saga that chronicles the two-year trip of a man and his son from Ohio to Colorado in the late 1870s.

National Writers Press 2013



Thomas Ramey Watson (MA-72), Denver, is the author of *Baltho, the Dog who Owned a Man*. It is an inspirational story of Tom and his first 'therapy dog,' told in a fictionalized memoir that explores a remarkable psychic relationship. Tom is a psychotherapist, life coach, writer and professor, affiliated with Regis University in Denver.

Barn Swallow Media, 2012



Prairie Grace by **Marilyn Bay Wentz** (BA-84) is a fast-moving book of historical fiction set in the 1864 Colorado Territory as Indian settler hostilities build and culminate in the Sand Creek Massacre. The story is told from the eyes of Georgia, a daring young settler woman, and Gray Wolf, nephew of historic Cheyenne Chief Lean Bear.

Ingram Publisher Services, 2013



Campus Memories

'Meet You at The Bru'

Comparing the first student center with today's, it wasn't much.

Tucked in an annex of Gray Hall, Bru-Inn became the social center of campus. You could meet there for a cup of sludge coffee, soda or even a meal, if you had enough money to pay for a burger or hot dog — and could find a place to sit among the wooden booths along the walls and tables through the center.

"Meet you at The Bru" were the code words of the day.

We'd spend hours at the tables in a never-ending card game of Hearts. Sometimes, if we had a major inconvenience like a class, we would leave, then return and pick up like we'd never left.

One night my roommate made off with a duffle bag of eating utensils to stock our basement apartment (Ivan: I'm sure the statute of limitations has run out by now.) With *The Mirror* offices at the back of the building, we'd also sneak into Bru-Inn late at night to smuggle a cup of coffee to help keep us going as we put the newspaper to bed.

If you visit the "new" student union on the hill (it's been there almost 50 years) you find a lot of things are different. Oh, the building is huge and modern and beautiful inside, with much more seating for students. There is a Starbucks, so the appeal of sludge coffee is gone.

The students aren't sitting around playing Hearts. They're on their laptops or their iPads or their cellphones, probably doing more important things.

And — this will shock my old roommate — they serve the food with plastic ware.

But on the old campus, the name Bru-Inn remains on the outside door, and the memories can still be found.

It was where my girlfriend, Linda, and I had our first date.

We've been married 46 years now.

Maybe that's why The Bru meant so much to us.

— Mike Peters (BA-68) is a retired journalist.

📍 At northernvision.unco.edu, Charles "Chuck" Russell (BA-67, MA-68) shares stories he and his wife, Judy Mattingly Russell (BA-66), lived (and sometimes endured) residing in since-razed McCowen Hall and Jackson Apartments. Email your campus memories to northernvision@unco.edu.

Is a College Degree Worth It?

I read with interest UNC President Kay Norton's comments in the spring/summer edition of Northern Vision on the question: "Is a college degree worth it?"

I have to admit that when I was a full-time graduate student at UNC back in 1974-75, I asked myself that same question.

The scenario was that I left my job as a school superintendent in northwest Nebraska to complete the doctoral residence requirement.

Here I was with a wife and four small children, a non-resident student and no job. I was fortunate to have received an Educational Planning Service fellowship through the Department of Educational Administration that paid \$317 a month. It was great to be young and stupid. Otherwise, I might not have "taken the plunge" so to speak.

At any rate, my degree from UNC was definitely worth the investment. And the education I received through the Department of Educational Administration was truly outstanding. Although they are no longer living, a couple of the professors that stand out are Dr. Art Partridge and Dr. Emmett Ritter. There are others, of course, but these two stand out as the best in their field.

— R. L. "Bob" Ripp, (EdD-80), director, Early Learning Academy Lexington (Neb.) Public Schools

📍 Visit the archives at northernvision.unco.edu to read Norton's answer to the question in the spring/summer edition of Northern Vision.

Trivia: Win a UNC Gift Bag

Colorado history expert and UNC faculty member Mary Borg mentions Colorado's many ghost towns in "Campus Scene" on page 4. Tell us which Colorado ghost town UNC is most closely associated with to be entered into a drawing for a UNC backpack containing a variety of university- and Alumni Association-branded items — coffee mugs, pens, pennants and more. Send your answer by Nov. 15 to northernvision@unco.edu.

Congratulations to the winners of last issue's trivia contest, whose names were randomly drawn from entries with the correct answer. Traci Grilley, Cathy Sullivan and Laura Alcorn were among the many who knew that Bobby Seale was the Black Panther Party co-founder who spoke at the Feb. 1, 1983, opening of UNC's Marcus Garvey Cultural Center.

CORRECTION: Last issue's feature on the 3,695 trees that dot UNC's campus misspelled the name of Brent Engel, who was instrumental in helping UNC achieve Tree Campus USA designation by the Arbor Day Foundation.

In Memory

1930s

Wilma (Frazier) Dunn (LC-37, BA-57, MA-68)

1940s

Helen (Danielson) Peterson (LC-40)
 Merrill E. Adams (BA-41, MA-48)
 Frances M. Dorward (LC-41)
 Winifred (Kenney) Kitts (BS-41)
 Lura (Lewis) Barnard (LC-42)
 Betty (Thompson) Pegrum (BA-42, MA-71)
 Lloyd J. Dressler (MA-43)
 Warren Myers (MA-43)
 Elizabeth (Nelson) Poage (BA-44)
 Lois (Reed) Philippone (BA-45)
 Rosalind (Mui) Yee (AB-46, MA-47)
 Floy S. Moore (BA-46)
 Howard W. Chrisman (BA-47)
 Anna (Stine) Levy (BA-47)
 Patricia (Rydberg) Thomas (BA-47)
 Thaine Young (MA-48)
 Edward T. Burda (BA-49)
 Zelda (Hackney) Crum (BA-49)
 Shirley (Delbridge) Hickman (BA-49)
 Max M. Hosier (MA-49, EdD-58)
 James R. Ledford (BA-49)

1950s

Kenneth P. Schoonover (BA-50, MA-52)
 Jack D. Skinner (BA-50)
 Wendal Jones (BA-52, MA-53)
 Marjorie M. Lane (MA-52)
 Shirley (Krogh) Leeper (BA-52)
 Giles J. Smith (MA-52)
 Cynthia (Sutherland) Trembath (BA-52)
 Lois (Shelburne) Wallace (BS-52, MA-59)
 Ruth E. Goshorn (MA-53)
 Charles R. Paolino (BA-53, MA-60)
 Jay H. Bouton (MA-54)
 Gordon L. Cawelti (MA-54)
 Gwynne C. Coomes, Jr. (MA-54)
 Mary Failor (BA-54)
 Mary C. Gauldin (MA-54)
 Thomas A. Rapp Jr. (BA-54)
 Richard L. Shepard (MA-54)
 Arthur L. Meisner (BA-55)
 Brian E. Beckley (MA-56)
 James L. Linker (BA-56, MA-60)
 Frances (Cordo) Trostle (BA-56, MA-58)
 Avery Wold (MA-56)
 Malcolm "Bob" Anderson (MA-57)
 John W. Goebel (MA-57)
 Karl W. Schaefer (BA-57)
 Eloise A. Schwab (BA-57, MA-61)
 Kenneth Makowski (BA-58)
 Harlan J. Sorensen (BA-58, MA-71)
 Gerald "Sonny" Boland (BA-59)
 Audrey (Martens) Hendricks (BA-59)
 David H. Mathias (MA-59, EdD-66)
 Ruby A. Nicholson (MA-59)

1960s

Mildred "Mim" T. Ballou (EdD-60)
 Cinda L. Campton (BA-60)
 Doran Christensen (MA-60)
 Gary D. Lentz (BA-60)
 Leland G. Peterson (MA-60)
 David C. Chaplin (MA-61)
 Ruth L. Dorsey (MA-61)
 Jack L. Knight (BA-61, MA-70)
 William Di Stasio (BA-62)
 Kathryn W. George (BA-62, MA-73)
 Betty (Leach) Nicholls (BA-62)
 Donald C. Price (MME-62)
 Hazel M. Severin (MA-62)
 G. Maxine Gleason (BA-63, MA-66, EdS-71)
 Dean W. Hall (MA-63)
 Craig A. Rouch (BA-63)
 Helen (Koehler) Starkey (BA-63)
 Flora (Sprong) Sayre (BA-64)
 Carolyn (Jacob) Keech (MA-65)
 Evelyn A. Neujahr (BA-65)
 Virginia (Stenzel Casten) Phillips (MA-65)
 Glenn J. Tanner (BA-65, MA-71)
 Robert S. Wynn Jr. (EdD-65)
 Liliya (Pavars) Vreeland (MA-66)
 Alva E. Pietsch (MA-66)
 Russell C. Calhoun (BA-67)
 Gregory J. Danelz (MA-67)
 Patricia J. Marriner (BA-67, MA-75)
 Mary (Rutledge) Mincher (BA-68)
 Pride J. Anderson (MA-69)
 Martin L. Du Bois (BS-69)
 Garnie A. Johnson (MS-69)

1970s

Rebecca Carpenter (BA-70)
 Helen C. Lonsdale (MA-70, EdD-76)
 Rodney J. Appelhans (BA-71)
 Margaret J. Arnold (BS-71)
 Jay M. Coleman (EdD-71)
 James D. Craig (BA-71)
 David L. Black (BA-72)
 Karla (Brinkman) Lind (BA-72)
 Thomas D. Owen (BS-72)
 Wendy K. Carse (BA-73, MA-81)
 Sara R. Massey (EdD-73)
 Rebecca (Erwin) Perry (BA-73, MA-79)
 Ronald E. Breeding (MA-74)
 Pamela (Tubbs) Buttrill (BA-74)
 Christine De Vore (BA-74)
 Graham S. Humphrey (MA-74)
 Lewis N. Beckham (MA-75)
 Joseph A. Benedict (EdD-75)
 Harold J. Cornelius (BS-75, MS-77)
 John D. Murgel (MA-75)
 Susan (McCormick) Pamperin (BS-75)
 Nannette (White) Schwartz (BA-75, MA-77)
 Holly F. Stegner (BA-75, MA-77)
 Larry G. Ayers (BA-76)
 Mari B. Haas (MA-78)
 Denise (Oberle) Tapler (BA-78)
 Richard V. Davis (BA-79, MA-83)

1980s

Nancy (Smart) Hannah (BS-80, 82)
 Lori (Vernon) Maag (BA-80, MA-86)
 David V. McCalley (EdD-80)
 Julie A. Erickson (BS-81)
 Princess Patterson-Callum (BA-82)
 Linda (Henderson) Williams (BA-82)
 Colleen (Peterson) Mannon (BA-83)
 David M. Allen, Sr. (MA-84)
 Cheryl (Anderson) Alston (MA-84)
 Gayl (Craycraft) Cross (MA-86)
 Matthew B. Schuman (BA-86)
 Ronald J. Parro (BA-87)
 Wayne G. Jarrett (MS-89)
 Christopher L. Parker (BA-89)
 Charlotte E. Ware (MA-89)

1990s

David P. Laurienti (BS-92)
 Steven F. White (BA-92)
 Connie S. Ring (BA-94)
 Lavonne "Lynn" Warner (BA-94)
 Virginia (Ginny) Cross (PsyD-98)

2000s

Jeremy A. Hart (BA-01, MA-03)
 Alicia D. Robertson (BA-01)
 Stacy (Frey) Neild (BS-04)

Degree decoder, page 29

Tributes

Due to the number of "In Memory" entries, tributes are available online at northernvision.unco.edu:

- James K. Bowen, former professor at UNC
- Linda J. Carbajal, director of the Cumbres program at UNC
- José Córdoba, former professor at UNC
- Phyllis Drennan, former UNC nurse educator
- William R. Erwin Jr., former professor at UNC
- LeRoy A. Green (EdD-70), former professor at UNC
- Edward "Ed" Krafft, former long-time teacher at the university's laboratory school
- Frank Lakin (BA-55, MA-57), longtime UNC teacher and administrator
- Robert Longwell (MA-61), former professor at UNC
- Dale Lundeen, former professor at UNC
- Judy Malkiewicz (BS-73), former professor in the School of Nursing
- Jack Meakins (BA-51, MA-55), the first full-time director of Alumni Relations at UNC
- Carole M. Schneider, professor of Sport and Exercise Science and co-founder and director of the Rocky Mountain Cancer Research Institute at UNC
- Walter "Wally" Smith, Jr. (BA-58, MA-60), former professor at UNC

If your life has been touched or impacted by any of these alumni, faculty, staff and friends of UNC please consider making a memorial gift in his or her name to UNC Foundation, Campus Box 20, Greeley, CO 80639. Questions? Contact Margie Meyer at (970) 351-1886.

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"I am ever so grateful that my hard work and dedication have helped me get scholarships. The fact that scholarship donors believe in my success is very motivating."
—Serena Manigold, Class of 2014



"Thanks to scholarship support, I was able to tutor for elementary students in a low socio-economic elementary school and start giving back to the community."
—Theresa Teti, Class of 2015



"Just knowing that there are people who truly believe that my education is a good investment is a huge inspiration for me."
—Rachel Bailey, Class of 2014



"I want to be a positive role model for kids ... I was that kid who needed help. If I don't give back, it would be disrespectful to all the people who helped me get to UNC."
—Tim Huskisson, Class of 2015



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Then AND NOW

Musicians, 1925



AWARD WINNING

As the School of Music's performance programs have expanded and developed over the years, so too have the reputations of the student vocal and instrumental groups that perform nationally and internationally. The school's honors include:

- UNC jazz ensembles have received more than 100 *DownBeat* magazine awards, which include the Jazz Lab Band I's seven awards in the past nine years. Four, including 2012's, were for Best College Big Band.
- The University Symphony Orchestra's 2012 *DownBeat* award for Best College Classical Ensemble marked the 10th time since 1999 the group has been named best college orchestra or classical ensemble.
- UNC's Vocal Jazz I was the first college vocal group to ever receive a Grammy nomination.
- School of Music faculty members have been nominated for five Grammy awards and have won four.

📍 For more "Then and Now" photos, visit www.unco.edu/news



Jazz Lab Band I, 2013