

# Northern

## VISION

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO  
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

SPRING/SUMMER 2012

Confronting Death  
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A Dose of Reality TV  
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Working at the White House  
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## UNC AROUND THE WORLD

Graduates share stories  
about taking their talents  
to countries spanning  
the globe

Page 12



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**HAND-EYE COORDINATION:** A Cuban baseball player uses a makeshift bat as he prepares to hit a plastic bottle cap spinning toward him on an imagined field in a Havana neighborhood (note the strike zone scrawled on the pillar.) Jeffrey S. Smith (BA-88), Jennine (Engelhardt) Pettit (BA-96) and Geography Professor Charles O. Collins traveled to Cuba to document the culture, which includes thousands of young aspiring baseball players. Read Collins' account on page 6.

*Photo by Jeffrey S. Smith courtesy of Charles O. Collins*

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### EDITOR'S NOTE

In the excitement to introduce our new-look mascot, we were guilty of embellishing the process to select Klawz (“Scratching out an identity: Mystique the Goal of Reimagined Klawz,” Fall/Winter 2011). To set the record straight, the 2011-12 academic year wasn’t the first time mascot auditions were held. We’re told the practice was in place when Klawz replaced Gunter Bear in 2003.

—NV



## States' budget challenges provide higher education opportunity

The traditional organizational and funding model for public higher education is broken.

Under increasing pressure to fund many important areas, states are simply unable to continue the historic level of support for public higher education. The old state model of direct operational funding to institutions and regulated tuition levels is an inefficient way to direct public funding. At the federal level, which primarily provides need-based financial aid directly to students, reducing the deficit will most certainly mean further cuts.

The challenge in this permanently changed environment is, in fact, liberating. It presents an opportunity to rethink higher education policy and answer the question: How do we make the investment by our students and public as powerful and transformative as possible?

If we don't make significant changes as we respond to the deep higher education funding cuts that are driving tuition increases, we risk squeezing out the middle-class students that a public university such as UNC serves. These are the students who are not so in need of assistance that they can rely on federal grants, but who are not in a position to pay the full sticker price, either. These are also the students who disproportionately rely on loans to finance their education.

It's wasted energy for us to keep repeating the mantra that higher education just needs more money. On the other hand, it is unreasonable to assume we are selfish, wasteful institutions that need to be regulated to keep us from being unfair to students. The truth lies in between. We must target our public investment to focus on financial aid for students — to foster not only access to higher education, but also student success and graduation.

I believe we must continue to focus on three critical things, which the UNC community embraces:

- **Degree completion.** The real issue is what the public gets for its investment in higher education.

This outcomes-based approach is valid as long as we are talking about meaningful, high-quality degrees that graduates earn through a transformative education. A UNC degree means a lot more than particular competencies. Sure, we want our teacher candidates to ace their licensure exams, and we want our business and accounting students to do fabulously well on national tests, but we expect more from our graduates. And, quite frankly, you expect more of us. So it is not enough just to increase the number of degrees — we must increase the number of students who earn degrees that prepare them for work, life and responsible citizenship.

- **State investment in need-based financial aid for students.** Without it, public universities will face serious constraints on the number of low- and middle-income students we can serve. It's not just about the future of the individuals. In the long term, states will feel the effects of disinvestment — for example, with fewer graduates in high-need areas, such as education and nursing. An important part of UNC's budget planning has focused on how we can allocate more institutional dollars to financial aid.

- **Institutional flexibility.** At UNC, we accept the challenge of providing a public return on investment. And we are working to respond to this challenge with the same creative, inventive, entrepreneurial spirit that we work to instill in our students. The collective effect of decades of legislation based on the assumption institutions will be irrational and waste the state's money is paralyzing to any real attempts to reinvent higher education.

As institutions, we need to forge a new kind of partnership with the citizens of states. UNC has launched this effort in the state of Colorado. This partnership is the antithesis of bureaucracy and command-and-control regulation. It requires a willingness from both of us to take risks (and sometimes even to fail), a tolerance for ambiguity, and a commitment to genuine and open communication about what is and isn't working.

Together, we are smart enough and courageous enough to take control of our own future.

—Kay Norton is in her 10th year as president of the University of Northern Colorado.



### ASK THE PRESIDENT

Have a question about the university you would like to ask UNC President Kay Norton? Send your question to [northernvision@unco.edu](mailto:northernvision@unco.edu). We'll select questions and answers to print in future editions of *Northern Vision*.

### IN THE NEWS

In April, UNC President Kay Norton and three UNC graduates were selected to *The Denver Post's* list of most influential women in Colorado. Joining Norton are:

- Katherine Archuleta (MA-76), national political director for the Obama Campaign;
- Janice Sinden (BA-97), chief of staff for Denver Mayor Michael Hancock;
- Chris Watney (MA-06), president of the Colorado Children's Campaign.

“How do we make the investment by our students and public as powerful and transformative as possible?”

**'EYELASHES'**

The title of Professor Gary Swanson's photo recognized by *Travel + Leisure* magazine. While in South Africa, Swanson took the photo as the giraffe started down a hill to graze on more tree leaves.



## Professor's Photo Wows Editors, Readers of Travel Magazine

*Travel + Leisure* magazine editors selected a photo of a giraffe taken by Journalism Professor Gary Swanson as one of the 10 best among 4,000 entries during a monthly photography contest.

Online readers then picked the photo as the best overall, and it appeared in the March issue of the magazine. The selection also qualified for the contest's grand prize — a trip for two to South Africa. Coincidentally, that's where Swanson took the photo during a summer 2010 trip with two students to record video for a documentary, which was part of a class project.

A free trip would have been nice — Swanson plans to return for more film work — but his entry came up short in voting by the magazine's online community.

### LISTEN IN

“As we look ahead, UNC's partnership with Greeley is a model for the way 21st century communities can grow and thrive as we think of creative ways to invest in education and the economy for a nation 'built to last.'”

— From the blog of U.S. Department of Education Under Secretary Martha Kanter, following her presentation on college affordability and completion at UNC on Feb. 23.



A link to Kanter's blog entry is at [www.unco.edu/northernvision](http://www.unco.edu/northernvision)

## Faculty Share Research on 'Academic Minute'

UNC faculty are taking to the airwaves to share information about their research with a national audience. *The Academic Minute*, produced by WAMC-FM in Albany, N.Y., airs weekdays on 50 radio stations nationwide and features researchers from colleges and universities around the world keeping listeners abreast of what's new and exciting in the academy. UNC researchers' 1 minute, 40-second essays are recorded on campus and transmitted electronically to WAMC.



UNC's contributions to the program include:

- Assistant Professor of Marketing David Thomas: how businesses and other organizations view their place in the communities that exist around them.
- Professor of Education Michael Opitz: the link between literacy and fitness among youth.
- Professor of Earth Sciences Steven Anderson: how researching volcanism here on Earth can shed light on similar processes elsewhere in the solar system.
- Co-director of the Life of the Mind program Michael Mills: the study of semiotics and how we interpret signs.



Past programs are archived at [www.wamc.org/academic-minute.html](http://www.wamc.org/academic-minute.html) and also available on the *Inside Higher Ed* website: [www.insidehighered.com](http://www.insidehighered.com)



**FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PRO-SPORT STAFF JOBS**

1. From the beginning of preseason to the end of postseason, there aren't any weekends off.
2. They may be big, they may be small, but at least three crises occur during the day. During the offseason, you're on call 24/7 for any crisis that might occur.
3. During the season, it's normal to work 12-16 hours on game days. Expect to stay late.
4. You will never be able to watch a game in the sport as a fan again. You will be working them. All of them.
5. If you love the sport you work in and love your job, none of the above will matter because you won't be working to live, you'll be living to work.

—Brittany Sarconi (BA-11), a PR intern with the Houston Astros, is a graduate student in the Sport Administration program.

**Snow Problem: New AVP of Alumni Relations Settles In**



Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations Matthew Manfra's road to his new position wasn't exactly paved with gold.

"I think Matt may have rented the only rear-wheel drive car in Colorado," says Steve Baker (BA-86), past president of the UNC Alumni

Association board, who was giving the candidate a post-interview tour of Greeley during an October snowstorm that dumped nearly a foot of snow.

Baker's friendly push out of a treacherous driveway, along with the kind loan of a broom from an 87-year-old resident during another spinout, put Manfra back on the road after he successfully weathered the snowstorm — and the interview.

"It was smooth," Manfra says of his cross-country return to UNC after leaving his previous position as director of alumni outreach programs at Rutgers University. "Sunny skies all the way."

Manfra now sits comfortably at the wheel of a front-wheel drive car and at the helm of UNC's alumni relations program.

He says he's confident that he and the dedicated volunteers on the association's board of directors have a clear outlook for UNC's 100,000-plus alumni, with members in 50 states and 77 countries.

To get more involved with the Alumni Association, whether it's hosting a get-together where you live, mentoring a current student or attending campus events, contact Manfra at Matthew.Manfra@unco.edu, 970-351-2551 or visit www.uncalumni.org.

—Amy Dressel-Martin

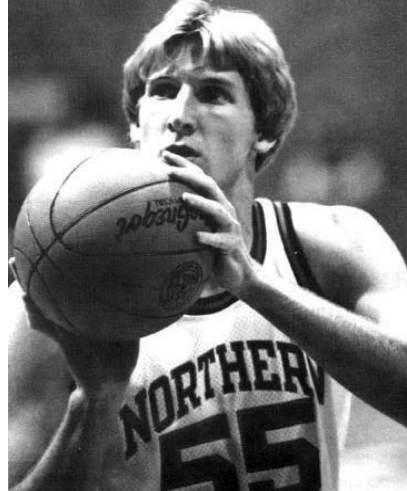


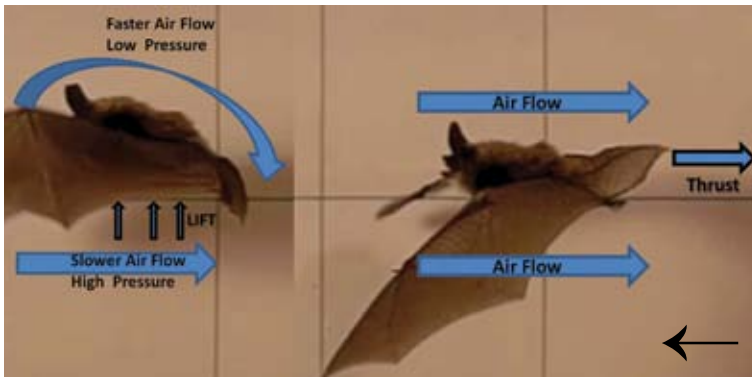
Photo by Jim Rydbom



**Bears Retire Higgins' Jersey**

Mike Higgins, UNC Hall of Fame center from 1985-89 and the only Bear to play in the NBA, smiles as UNC President Kay Norton and Athletics Director Jay Hinrichs present a framed jersey during a Dec. 21 halftime ceremony to retire his No. 55 jersey. Higgins remains the Bears' all-time leading scorer, rebounder and shot blocker. He's the second UNC student-athlete to have a jersey retired. Corte McGuffey, who quarterbacked the Bears from 1996-99 and was named the top NCAA Division II player as a senior, was the first in 2007.

For complete coverage of the Bears, log on to [www.uncbears.com](http://www.uncbears.com)



## Researchers Discover Bats Use Tail Membrane to Provide Thrust

A team of UNC researchers used an institutional grant to buy a high-speed video camera and capture footage revealing that bats use their tail membrane to provide thrust during takeoff and flight. The unique movement of the tail above and below their bodies, indiscernible to the naked eye and previously undetected, is unlike that observed in any other flying vertebrate.


Biology Professor Rick Adams and his team of graduate students spent two years filming 100 bats and hundreds of hours digitizing and analyzing video before revealing their discovery of “Tail-Assisted-Flight-Thrust” in the prestigious scientific journal *PLoS ONE* in February.

 Read the full story and view video at UNC News Central at [www.unco.edu/news](http://www.unco.edu/news)

## Music Professor Breaks Ground with Saxophones

Associate Professor of Music Andrew Dahlke, who’s trying to develop the saxophone as a classical music instrument, made a huge step toward his goal when he recently became the first musician to transcribe and professionally record a suite of solo cello music using four different types of saxophones.

Johann Sebastian Bach’s “Six Suites for Unaccompanied Cello,” some of the most performed and recognizable solo compositions ever written for cello, have been transcribed and recorded using a variety of instruments, including a single style of saxophone, but Dahlke is the first musician to transcribe them and professionally record them using a soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxophone.

 Read the full story and view video at UNC News Central at [www.unco.edu/news](http://www.unco.edu/news)

## State Ed Department Selects Faculty for Program Evaluation

Five UNC faculty members have been selected by the Colorado Department of Education to develop, design and implement an evaluation system for five federal- and state-funded programs that include dropout prevention and student engagement.

Elysia Clemens (project director), Lisa Rue, Robyn Hess, Sonja Rizzolo and John Froiland were awarded the three-year, \$179,178 contract to review current practices and provide a recommended framework for measuring outcomes of programs in CDE’s Dropout Prevention and Student Engagement Unit.

 Read the full story at UNC News Central at [www.unco.edu/news](http://www.unco.edu/news)



Professor Andy Creekmore instructs students in his Archaeology Research Methods class on building a reusable mock excavation site for students in future classes to use.

## Archaeology Collaborative Benefits Students

UNC and the Poudre Learning Center are combining resources and expertise to develop simulated field experiences that will give archaeology students additional opportunities to gain hands-on experience and build their skills.

UNC Anthropology major Adrien Hoff, who interns at the center, brought together Archaeology Professor Andy Creekmore and PLC director Ray Tschillard (MA-91) to plan and execute two projects on the interdisciplinary learning center’s 65 acres, west of Greeley, using grant funds from both institutions.

Reusable mock archaeological excavations feature planted replicas of artifacts from different time periods and will be re-excavated repeatedly. Students also will be trained on the center’s land to use geophysics research methods, such as ground-penetrating radar, that make it possible to identify and analyze archaeological remains without large-scale excavations.

**FAST FACT:** Worldwide each night, bats combine to consume metric tons of insects and pests, including mosquitoes. Without bats, the cost to the food industry would amount to billions of dollars each year.



## Signs of Capitalism Endure in Cuba



Geographers relish the remote. The allure of isolation becomes irresistible when it's less than 100 miles from U.S. soil.

For three geographers with UNC roots, Cuba had long been professionally intriguing. When travel restrictions eased and an agency was found to navigate legal logistics, we embarked to the domain of the brothers Castro.

Our focus was the so-called Habana Victory Gardens, part of a strategy of urban agriculture to cope with early 1990s food shortages related to the withdrawal of Soviet aid. Despite glowing reports to the contrary, the practice was much

diminished when we visited in 2010. Our alternative was to absorb as much of daily life as possible through observation, literature, photos and conversations with Cubans on the street and in academia — activities we pursued with no interference and much friendly cooperation.

Since the 16th century, Havana has been described as a gray dowager. But the city's crumbling countenance is more than age; official policy directs funds to the countryside, especially to education and health care, and for two decades those funds have been critically scarce. Consequently, the Cuban capital contains much decay and is eerily quiet, especially at night. But in a cityscape of subdued sound and tint, we discovered sources of color and excitement — baseball, music and vintage cars. We enjoyed all three, but it was the latter that captured our professional interest.

At the Plaza de la Revolución, scene of Fidel's marathon speeches, we spy a shiny pink 1957 Ford convertible that stands out among the few vehicles in the huge plaza. A brief conversation reveals it's the property of the government's official taxi company. The original V-8 engine has been replaced with something the driver doesn't care to discuss. Up close, we see that the classic convertible has been repainted with pink house paint. The only Cubans who will scrape together enough money to rent it (\$30 an hour, driver included/required) are families sacrificing for a daughter's wedding or quinceañera. However, thousands of vintage cachaños are owned by Cubans who use them daily when fuel is available.

Later, two vehicles arrive at the plaza and fortuitously park next to each other, illustrating a before-and-after snapshot of Cuban history. In front is a pre-Revolution 1955 DeSoto convertible, again the property of the Cuban government and intended for tourists, or the rare resident with the equivalent of three month's salary for a two-hour ride. Immediately behind it is the Russian-built Lada of the



**BASEBALL AND VINTAGE CARS:** Collins captured life in Cuba from youth-improvised baseball to an assortment of vintage cars. Two of the cars are used by the government to shuttle tourists: a 1957 Ford convertible covered with pink house paint and a 1955 DeSoto convertible.

post-revolution era. It's all the things the DeSoto is not: functional, cheap, mechanically simple, easily repaired, and very, very drab.

Our observations in Cuba beg a fundamental question: How does an iconic symbol of American capitalism survive six decades in Communist Cuba? We have only a partial answer: Cuban nostalgia, Cuban ingenuity, and the desired return of mass tourism to the island Columbus called the most beautiful in the world.

*—Charles O. Collins, Ph.D., is a UNC professor of Geography. He traveled to Cuba with fellow geographers Jeffrey S. Smith (BA-88) and Jennine (Engelhardt) Pettit (BA-96).*



# THE Water Gatekeepers

Story by Joshua Zaffos  
Photography by Kevin Moloney

Commissioners carry on the time-honored practice of monitoring levels in Colorado to manage complexities of flows to households and farms

**SINCE 1879:** Water commissioners, like Jason Smith (BA-07), inform cities when they can fill their reservoirs and when water-rights holders must limit use.

*Photo courtesy of Jason Smith*



Driving to the west of Loveland, along an unpaved stretch of the old U.S. 34, where the historic path veers behind the renowned Dam Store, Jason Smith (BA-07) is moving through the intersection of history and hydrology. He steers his Ford F150 away from the modern asphalt road, which curves up Big Thompson Canyon toward Estes Park. He then turns toward Green Ridge Glade Reservoir, which holds the municipal water supply for the city of Loveland.

As the District 4 water commissioner for the Colorado Division of Water Resources, Smith is doing his monthly check of reservoir levels within the Big Thompson River Basin to help him prepare for the upcoming spring snowmelt and runoff. The task is as old as the post of water commissioner, which dates back to 1879, when Colorado officially began recognizing water rights and managing the flows that pulse through streams and irrigation ditches.







**ROAD WARRIOR:** Brent Schantz (BA-93) uses a wire weight to get a stage level at the Kersey gauging station. It takes 2 ½ hours to drive across his districts, which include the South Platte River and the gauge house (opposite page) overlooking Bijou Ditch, east of Kersey.

Smith is among 114 commissioners across the state, each patrolling a district covering part, or all, of a river basin. Their job of administering water rights based on legal priority and the decrees of the state's water courts is both straightforward and nebulous. Depending on climate and weather, runoff rates and stream volumes, commissioners say when cities can fill their reservoirs, or irrigation companies can open their diversion ditches. Sometimes known as water cops, they are also faced with telling people when they must limit their diversions to protect senior, or older, water rights.

Smith finds Green Ridge Glade and other reservoirs sitting at relatively high and steady levels through early February. But the dry and windy Colorado winter serves as a forewarning. Smith has heard from plenty of colleagues and ditch riders that the seasonal conditions so far are reminiscent of the brutal drought of 2002 — supported by media reports in May that statewide snowpack totals were tracking at 19 percent of the 30-year average.

Working long hours and often tramping through the field, or buried under paperwork, water commissioners are unsung heroes in keeping water flowing to farm fields and household faucets. In many ways, the job hasn't changed much in 130 years — except for the pickup trucks and stream-gauge technology that greatly reduce uncertainty and delays.

"The water commissioner is an elusive creature," Smith says.

That may be the case, but water commissioners are creating an evident legacy at UNC. Building on skills and interests cultivated in the Geography and Environmental Science departments, UNC graduates serve as commissioners all over

Colorado. The state Division of Water Resources' Greeley regional office counts eight graduates, including Smith, on its own.



Brent Schantz (BA-93) fell for the profession as a student intern. "I rode around with the District 4 water commissioner and knew that this was what I wanted to do," he says.

A native of Fort Morgan, Schantz completed three student internships with the guidance and help of his Geography professors. He started in a temporary position in the Greeley water-resources office when he graduated, before landing a full-time job.

Schantz is now the commissioner for districts 1 and 64, administering 158 miles of the lower South Platte River in eastern Colorado, including the area where he grew up.

The expansive region — which takes 2 ½ hours to cover by vehicle — is complicated hydrological terrain with both surface-water and groundwater rights. When the 2002 drought was in full swing, Schantz worked long hours as low-river flows forced senior calls resulting in curtailment of junior rights and well pumping. Farmers pumping groundwater battled surface-water irrigators, and Schantz faced death threats over curtailment of diversions.

With people's livelihoods at stake, he felt compelled to have kitchen-table talks with farmers to explain the situation and build lasting relationships. He's been vigilant to keep the lines of communication open since.

**TOOLS OF THE TRADE:** Commissioners spend time in the field verifying diversions of water with the help of data-loggers, right, and can also get updates on real-time flows remotely thanks to advancing technology in telemetry.



In the aftermath of the drought and a state Supreme Court ruling, groundwater users now have to replace depletions to the river. One method is using recharge ponds. Previously, a few dozen existed on the Eastern Plains; now, there are 450, says Schantz. Four deputy commissioners stationed farther east help him with monitoring.

Schantz's districts are also changing, as cities target the region for "buy-and-dry" — a strategy of purchasing water rights from rural irrigation companies and legally changing them for municipal uses, depriving farms of water and often forcing their closure. While lawmakers and water managers are seeking alternatives to preserve farming and meet cities' needs, Schantz and his staff dedicate their time to protecting decreed rights.



Schantz has helped other UNC students follow in his footsteps. When there's been an internship or job opening, he has reached out to former Geography professors, including department chair James Doerner, to recommend candidates. After a call from Schantz in early 2006, Doerner encouraged Smith to apply for a temporary position, which eventually led to his water commissioner job.

"The Geography department is kind of in a shadow on campus," says Scott Hummer (BA-89), who worked for 21 years as the Blue River commissioner in Summit County and is now project manager for Colorado Water Trust. "They have a tremendous staff and produce some very quality employees that work for the agency."

Course offerings in the close-knit department, which has around 20 graduates per year, allow students to study physical landscapes in classes and afield. Students also learn to use geographic information systems (GIS) computer applications.

"The skill set fits nicely with the work that water commissioners do," Doerner says.

Not that the department has a monopoly on producing water commissioners.

Shera Sumerford (BA-00) found her way into the field after taking a water-policy course with Tom Cech, a water expert in his own right and former director of the Central Colorado Water Conservancy District, based in Greeley. After being inspired by Cech's class, Sumerford, an Environmental Science major, sought an internship in water resources.

She broke in with the regional office in Greeley, and spent her internship working on a team that wandered the Eastern Plains locating and tagging irrigation wells, a chore that "isn't as bad as it sounds," she quips. She was offered a job when she graduated, working as a deputy commissioner and hydrographer. In 2008, she became the St. Vrain River water commissioner, a district that includes the city of Longmont.

"I get to be inside, I get to be outside," Sumerford says, noting that "the water-policy class got me here."

#### KEY WATER TERMS

**Headgate** – A gate that is raised and lowered to allow water diversions off a river or ditch.

**Prior appropriation** – The doctrine by which Colorado water law operates; the first person to get water use decreed in water court will receive water before those decreed after them.

**Ditch rider** – The person who allocates water according to the number of shares held by individual owners under the ditch.

**Stream gauge** – Gauges that measure the amount of water in a stream in cubic feet per second.

**Telemetry** – A remote signal (radio, cellular or satellite) that allows gauge recorder readings to be taken from a distance.

**Acre-foot (cfs)** – The volume of one acre of surface to a depth of one foot.

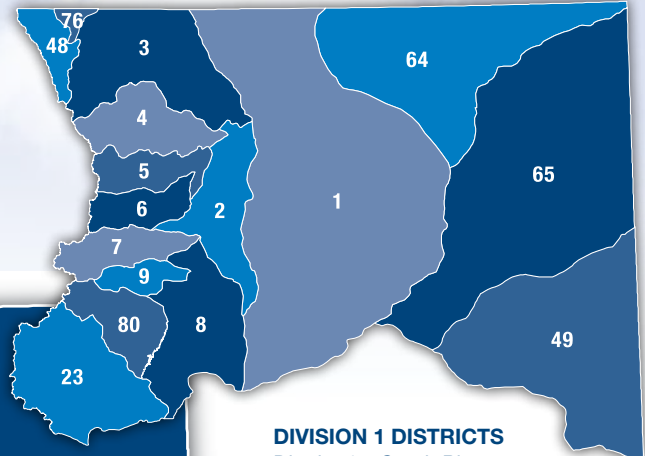
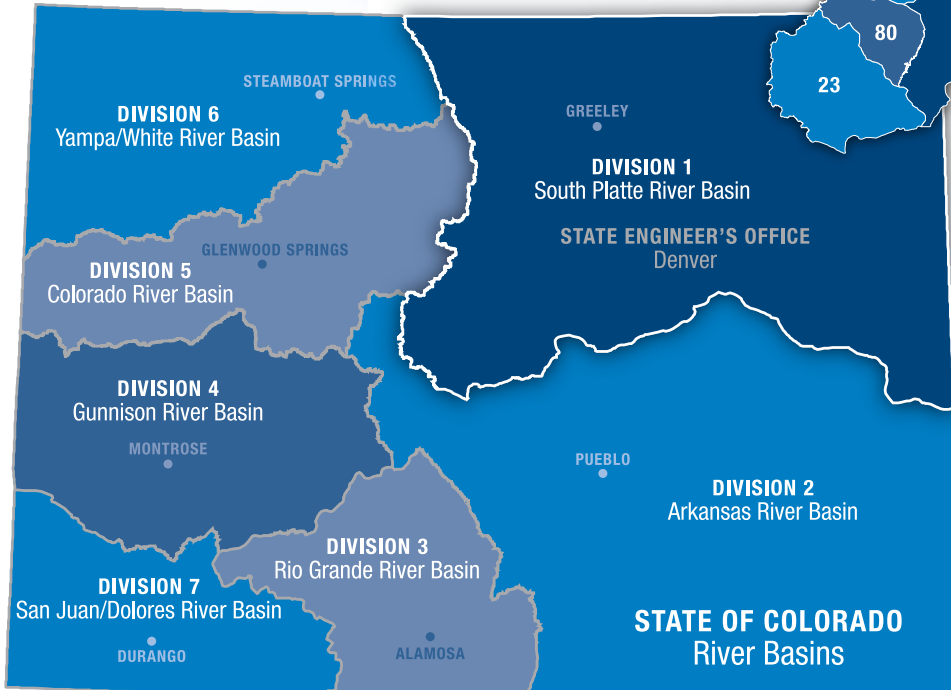
**Recharge ponds** – Ponds that artificially replenish the groundwater of an aquifer.

**Diversion ditches** – Divert water for irrigation, municipal or other beneficial uses.

For more terms, and current river- and ditch-flow updates in real time:  
[www.water.state.co.us](http://www.water.state.co.us)

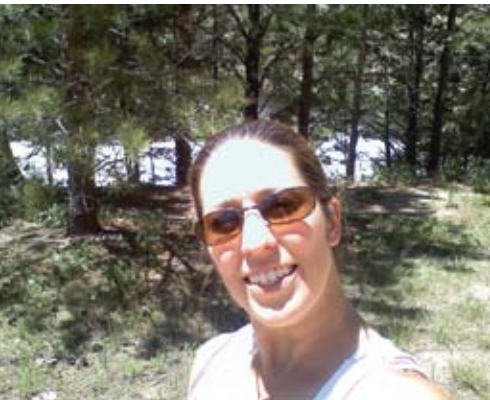
**A LOOK AT THE STATE'S RIVER BASINS**

In Division 1 (see inset), Smith monitors the reservoir that provides water for the city of Loveland in District 4, Schantz covers districts 1 and 64, and Sumerford oversees District 5, which includes the city of Longmont.



**DIVISION 1 DISTRICTS**

- District 1 – South Platte: Greeley to Balzac
- District 2 – South Platte: Denver Gage to Greeley
- District 3 – Cache La Poudre River
- District 4 – Big Thompson River
- District 5 – St. Vrain Creek
- District 6 – Boulder Creek
- District 7 – Clear Creek
- District 8 – South Platte: Cheesman to Denver Gage
- District 9 – Bear Creek
- District 23 – Upper South Platte
- District 48 – Laramie River
- District 49 – Republican River
- District 64 – South Platte: Balzac to Stalene
- District 65 – Arikaree River
- District 76 – Sand Creek
- District 80 – North Fork of South Platte



**WATCHFUL EYE:** Shera Sumerford, checking an outflow from a reservoir above, and colleague Smith each monitor 20-30 irrigation ditches in their neighboring districts.

*Photo courtesy of Shera Sumerford*



Water commissioners spend a chunk of time over the winter compiling the past year's records and data. As they keep an eye on reservoir levels, they must also check surface-water diversions. Out on the plains, recharge water comes into priority once the reservoirs are full. Around March, commissioners will check in with ditch companies to see which ones want to start irrigating sooner rather than later and which ones still want to top off reservoirs.

By May, the frenzy of phone calls commences, and they continue until November. Starting around 5:30 a.m. daily, water commissioners are talking with ditch riders and irrigators to set headgate levels, which control how much water is diverted to irrigation canals. Smith says his personal record is 87 calls in one day.

With summer in full swing, commissioners check their surface-water diversions hourly to

ensure everyone is taking their fair and legal share of water—and not any more.

While Schantz and his deputies patrol his massive territory, Smith and Sumerford each watch 20 to 30 irrigation ditches and they share the time of a deputy between their adjacent districts. The commissioners spend two or three days during the week in the field verifying diversions, but a recent technology upgrade installed telemetry on gauges, so commissioners and water users throughout the South Platte can follow real-time flows by cell phone or by computer (also available at [www.water.state.co.us](http://www.water.state.co.us))

“Things change very quickly and that’s what I love about this job,” Schantz says. “No day is the same.” **NV**

*—Joshua Zaffos is a Fort Collins-based freelance writer who frequently covers the environment, science and technology.*

Stories by Dan England  
 Photos courtesy of graduates

# UNC AROUND

Entrepreneurs, social workers, teachers, actors and volunteers are among the 800-plus UNC alumni living and working abroad. Ten graduates share their stories following their life-changing decisions to take their talents to countries spanning the globe.



**Stephen J. Michael**  
 (BA-72)  
 Florida



**CarolLee Miles**  
 (BA-81)  
 World Traveler



**Janelle England**  
 (BA-08)  
 Nicaragua

L & R.  
 STAGE  
 100, Mich.  
 No. 10

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AIR MAIL

## ALUMNI ABROAD

<b>Countries</b> .....	<b>77</b>	<b>Alumni</b> .....	<b>819</b>
Australia .....	29	Côte d'Ivoire .....	1
Austria .....	1	Cyprus .....	3
Bahamas .....	7	Denmark .....	1
Bangladesh .....	2	Ecuador .....	1
Belgium .....	1	Egypt .....	4
Botswana .....	2	France .....	4
Brazil .....	7	Gambia .....	1
Cambodia .....	2	Germany .....	10
Canada .....	113	Greece .....	2
China .....	11	Guatemala .....	2
Colombia .....	3	Honduras .....	1

Hungary .....	1
India .....	7
Indonesia .....	4
Iran .....	3
Iraq .....	6
Ireland .....	1
Israel .....	6
Italy .....	2
Japan .....	63
Jordan .....	2
Kazakhstan .....	1
Kenya .....	2
Kuwait .....	10
Kyrgyzstan .....	1

Lebanon .....	1
Liberia .....	1
Libya .....	11
Malawi .....	1
Malaysia .....	16
Mexico .....	6
Namibia .....	1
Netherlands .....	5
New Zealand .....	6
Niger .....	1
Nigeria .....	20
Norway .....	5
Oman .....	3
Pakistan .....	5

Panama .....	1
Paraguay .....	1
Philippines .....	3
Poland .....	2
Republic of Korea .....	28
Romania .....	1
Russian Federation .....	1
Saint Kitts and Nevis .....	2
Saudi Arabia .....	42
Singapore .....	1
South Africa .....	3
Spain .....	1
Sri Lanka .....	1
Swaziland .....	3

Sweden .....	3
Switzerland .....	6
Taiwan .....	145
Tanzania .....	2
Thailand .....	125
Turkey .....	4
Uganda .....	3
United Arab Emirates .....	5
United Kingdom .....	28
Uruguay .....	1
Venezuela .....	4
Yemen .....	2
Zimbabwe .....	2

Source: UNC Foundation



View additional photos online at [www.unco.edu/nothernvision](http://www.unco.edu/nothernvision)

# THE WORLD



**Krysten Koehn**  
(BA-07)  
Kuwait & Switzerland



**Erin Willet**  
(BA-00)  
China



**Dorie Andrade**  
(BA-87, MA-96)  
Japan



**Richard Morrell**  
(PhD-89)  
United Arab Emirates



**Kaylah Woody**  
(BA-10)  
Taiwan



**Anna Russo**  
(BA-98)  
Rwanda



**Michael Combs**  
(BA-02)  
Australia

## TIPS ON WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING OVERSEAS

- Learn a foreign language — Many get a job simply because they can speak the language over there.
- Get some experience abroad — A stint in the Peace Corps or internship overseas builds the resumé.
- Teach or volunteer — Opportunities abound in those two vocations, even for first-year teachers. If you're willing to go anywhere, you will get a job, and usually schools will help you with the paperwork.
- Do it — It's difficult, and the transition, especially at first, will probably be tough. But it's worth every experience.
- Think outside the box — The jobs available overseas are probably different than in the U.S. But that means opportunity as well. Find a way to combine your skills.
- Go somewhere you didn't expect to go — Many interviewed for this story wound up in a place they didn't expect to go but also wound up loving their lives there.
- Use an agency — There are many agencies and opportunities online. Just be careful about which agency you use.
- Understand it's going to be different — You left the U.S. to experience other cultures, so enjoy the differences and embrace them, even if that means changing the way you dress or act in public. Life overseas is a new adventure. Treat it that way.

— As told to Dan England by graduates working abroad



**Dorie Andrade**  
(BA-87, MA-96)  
Japan

### Family Gains Global Perspective in Relocating

Earthquakes are as common as Colorado snowstorms, and the occasional typhoon makes her feel as if she's living in a car wash. But Dorie Andrade refuses to live in fear.

She has no regrets about uprooting her life and moving her husband and three kids to Okinawa, Japan. She now works as the special education coordinator for the Okinawa School District.

Seven years ago, she'd been to Texas, Arizona, Wyoming and spent most of her life in Colorado. That was it.

Then she looked online and then informed her family that she wanted to move to Japan.

"If I was going to do it, I wanted to go big," Andrade says.

Everyone, even her three kids, thought it was a cool idea. But then she got the job offer and reality hit. She had two weeks to get to Japan. Her three kids, an eighth-grader, a third-grader and a 16-year-old, who had just gotten her first car, had second thoughts.

"They didn't want to go at all," Andrade says.

But after adjusting, the experience changed their view of the world, she says, and she points to one example of many: Her oldest went to college in Vermont and now is in international relations. She's already spent some time in South America and wants a career in politics that will keep her traveling around the world.

"She had no interest in that until she actually saw another part of the world," she says.

Her husband, Ron, adjusted after tying up his job with a concrete contracting company. He now has a landscaping business for a naval facility.

"We're loving it," Andrade says. "We spend our weekends out on the ocean kayaking instead of working like we had to in the States all the time."

Okinawa seems like paradise, with its buffet of beaches, but dangers come with that. Earthquakes wake them up, but so far, the temblors have just rattled their home a bit. When the 8.9 quake hit, she was worried about the tsunamis that cut huge swaths through Japan in other places. Residents were being moved to higher ground after she came home from work. But her home was more than 200 miles south of the quake's epicenter, and the waves went around them.

"The West Coast of the United States got more than we did," she says.

The homes are built for massive storms and other events. The only damage from a three-day typhoon that hammered their home was a fallen palm tree. She feels confident that now she can take anything.

"I'd actually rather be here if something like that happens because we're built to withstand it," she says.

### Paying it Forward Down Under

Michael Combs left a successful, well-paying job at Hewlett-Packard to start a nonprofit in Australia with eight staff members and a handful of clients the first year.

And the biggest reason he did it was he saw himself in the people he wanted to help.

Combs graduated in 2002 from UNC while interning at HP through a program offered by Inroads, a nonprofit created in the 1970s to address the shortage of ethnic minorities in corporate ranks.

After a year with HP in his hometown of Colorado Springs, Combs was accepted into the company's global leadership program. That led to a job as business operations manager in Melbourne, where Combs noticed the a shortage of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. In fact, out of 17,000 workers at HP, not a single one was an indigenous Australian, he says.

In 2005, he started his own program at HP modeled after Inroads, which went into universities and recruited talented, hard-working indigenous people for internships with businesses that could eventually lead to full-time jobs. After a promotion to business operations executive in London, and then working as an HP consultant for the Asia-Pacific region in Sydney, he founded Career Trackers in 2009.

"The first student to go through the HP program, he and I were just having a beer one night. He said, 'We should take this program nationally,'" Combs says. "We could have a real impact on the community."

Before Career Trackers can help, the students still have to take the first step of going to college — like Combs, nearly all of the students are the first in their families to attend.

The similarities, he admits, end there. One of the hurdles his students face is many have parents who haven't held jobs. Even the most impressive, talented workers have to adapt to a new culture and lifestyle — even little things such as showing up to work on time.

Despite those challenges, it seems to be working. About a year ago, there were 18 students. Now Career Trackers is serving more than 150, and universities recently told him to expect double that next year.

He sees it as his purpose in life. After all, it was a similar program back home that gave him a purpose.

"If I had benefited from a program that has helped me and hundreds of thousands of minorities in the U.S., well, it's almost my responsibility to do that here," he says.

### Modeling Self-Reliance in Nicaragua

When Janelle England moved to Nicaragua to join the Peace Corps, it's almost as if she traveled back in time.

England lives "in the sticks," in a tiny, poor town, helping the people there with projects that make them more independent. The job fits with her degree in Anthropology. The lifestyle isn't much like where she grew up, but the surroundings have similarities.

England was born and raised in Greeley, a city flanked by corn stalks, crops and, yes, cattle. But electricity in Nicaragua is still a luxury, and although she has it and potable water, other volunteers don't have either. Even where she lives, regarded as one of the "richer" areas in the



**Michael Combs**  
(BA-02)  
Australia



**Janelle England**  
(BA-08)  
Nicaragua





country because of the cattle farms there, horseback is still the main mode of transportation.

"I feel like I'm living back in the olden days," England says, "only with cell phones and electricity."

She has access to the Internet, too, but only in the cities, not through wi-fi at home.

The lack of creature comforts (pigs and chickens often wake her up, and she also does her laundry by hand with a washboard and buckets of water) provide an opportunity for England. For example, she developed an efficient brick-and-barrel-style oven owned by women in the village to bake bread they can sell, giving them a chance to turn a much-needed profit — instead of paying for a rented oven and someone to tend to it. The farmers there know agriculture, and she helped them produce patio gardens so they can raise food to eat, not only to sell, and save them a trip to the markets for vegetables and fruit. In addition, she's showed them how to compost to inject life back into the area's weary soil.

She's also formed a simplified bank for the villagers to teach them about interest and savings.

"I think the bank is going to be the best project that I've done so far," England says.

At UNC, she minored in Spanish but needed to really learn the language by living in a country that speaks it.

"It's total immersion," England says.

When she returns to the States, England will consider graduate school with her experience speaking a second language and being a part of a different culture.



**Krysten Koehn**  
(BA-07)  
Kuwait & Switzerland

### Adventures of a Traveling Artist

Krysten Koehn lives for adventure.

She runs marathons, even if she questions her sanity for doing so. She climbs mountains, calling an overnight snowfall that left her tent roof crunchy and cold "a wonderful surprise." When she returned home to Colorado for a few days in the summer, she regretfully missed a few close friends because she climbed four fourteeners in two days.

But her toughest challenge yet may have also been her greatest adventure. Since she graduated from UNC in 2007, she's lived in two diverse parts of the world, including one that couldn't be more different than the state she used to call home.

After she graduated, she spent two years traveling the Middle East, with most of that time as an art teacher in Kuwait.

She calls the time frustrating and challenging, but it affected her so profoundly that almost all of her work as an artist is still based on those two years.

"It definitely turned my life upside down and backwards and inside out," Koehn says. "I always say that I'm really glad I did it, and I'm really glad I'm not doing it anymore."

It was her first teaching job, after all, in a culture "180 degrees" from what she was used to, she says. She had to cover most of her body in a

suffocating heat, and if she ate or drank in public during holidays such as Ramadan, she risked being arrested.

She came away impressed with the women who live there. They had a community, she says, and were more powerful than most probably realize. Just their eyes, Koehn says, could wrap an Arab man around their finger.

Koehn also loved Switzerland, where she lived after Kuwait. The kids she taught art to there embraced each other despite being from all over the world, she says. Switzerland was far different than Kuwait, of course, and also different than the U.S.

She grew to appreciate the residents in the ski village, where she stayed, as they closed their shops at 6 p.m. daily and on weekends to spend time with their families.

She didn't want to leave, but she came back to the U.S. because she was accepted by Yale's graduate program in the School of Art. She hopes someday to live in France as an artist.

It will be another adventure, and for her, that's all she needs to know.



### Globetrotter Voice Behind International Speedboat Racing

Stephen J. Michael stumbled across a gig as an organ player for a small-time hockey club, the kind that inspired the movie "Slap Shot."

This was in 1977 — the same year the Paul Newman classic came out — five years after he graduated from UNC with a History degree and a Geography minor (thankfully, he says now).

A flight instructor, Michael attended a hockey game in Lewiston, Maine, with his girlfriend. After the game, he offered to play organ for \$10 a game and a free ticket for his girlfriend. He played "Charge" as an audition. He got the gig.

Just six games into the season, the PR guy who hired him asked him if he knew anyone who could broadcast games on the radio. Michael had no experience, but he said he'd try it. They said they were desperate, so why not? And a broadcast career was born.

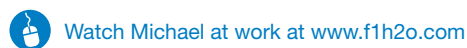
Now, he's the official voice and television announcer the Union of International Motonautique F1 H2O World Championship Tour, with races broadcast to 80 countries. Super Bowl-sized crowds of 100,000 attend the races featuring catamarans doing 140 mph.

"It makes no sense to us Americans because we hardly ever see this stuff," he says, "but it's huge around the world."

Michael doesn't live overseas — he makes his home in the southern part of Florida — but he's visited about 50 countries and has crossed the Atlantic almost 200 times. He typically visits 10 countries a year.

He admits he could make more money doing major-league sports, maybe for a hockey club, a sport he still loves. But he wouldn't have nearly as many stories.

"Life is short," he says. "These crazy experiences I've had in life are so much more fruitful to me than just going back to Kansas City to see the Royals for the twelfth time this year."



**Stephen J. Michael**  
(BA-72)  
Florida



**CarolLee Miles**  
(BA-81)  
World Traveler

### Cruises Pay Off for Worldwide Traveler

CarolLee Miles got married when she was 18, had children and put her husband through college. By the time her children were grown, she went through a kind of midlife crisis. That's when the Greeley resident began taking UNC classes. She didn't really have a major in mind, or any kind of a career.

"I really needed to find 'me' at that time in my life," she says.

Twenty years after she graduated from high school, she earned a business degree in 1981 and eventually became a cruise director, book author and serenity seeker who has traveled to more than 100 countries on all seven continents.


"I just love to say some of us are just kind of slow learners," she says.

She started with the Ports of Travel Club in 1986. When the company went out of business, she got certified as a tour and cruise director, and she's been a professional for 25 years now. Out of the hundreds of cruises she's taken, she's paid for five of them. She worked on the rest, leading groups from as few as 13 and to as many as 385. Her work led to a book she self-published this year, *Getting Paid to Cruise: Secrets of a Professional Cruise Host*.

Miles works for companies such as AAA as a liaison who can plan excursions for cruisers and help solve the hundreds of problems that occur on the ship, from broken toilets to bad food to medical emergencies. She runs a website for people to book trips.

Peace is a huge part of her life. She not only writes about it in her book, she created a CD of her poetry set to music. That was sparked during a 1996 tour to Jerusalem, when a bomb burst near the hotel where her group was staying. After the blast, the first thing she heard were birds and people praying at the Western Wall.

"I love it when I can help people with some sort of terror in their life, and get them past that, and that's all about psychology," she says.

 For more on Miles, [www.carolleemiles.com](http://www.carolleemiles.com)



**Richard Morrell**  
(PhD-89)  
United Arab Emirates



### From the Middle of America to the Middle East

Richard Morrell made a career move by exchanging America's heartland for a new university in the Middle East.

Morrell became vice president for student services at Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research near Abu Dhabi.

With 25 years of experience in higher education (Emporia State University, UNC, University of Kansas and, most recently, University of Central Missouri), Morrell and his wife, Kerry, have now settled into a cosmopolitan city.

There are differences living in a culture that requires Kerry to wear a black gown in certain places and forces Richard to rethink his duties.

The most interesting, even stunning, change was the way parents thought of his role as a kind of babysitter. He called students men and women in his previous jobs, but at KUSTAR, they're still called boys and girls and aren't even allowed to see each other outside of class. The coed arrangement, a social experiment, is considered a risky move by some in Abu Dhabi, and Morrell chuckles about the hand-wringing but takes it seriously.

"It's a very different way of interacting with students," he says.

The students are well-behaved for the most part. Morrell says the worst discipline he's had to hand down was for the "boys and girls" spending time together, which even the starchiest administrators back home would find laughable. Morrell believes that the reins will loosen as the university reaches its goal of 6,000 students in the next few years.

Currently, there are 800 students — plus more than 250 workers at the university, who represent 50 nationalities. Morrell hadn't really spent much time overseas beyond a safari hunting trip in Africa with his father in 1997 and a tour of Europe with his son a few years ago. He's in the same boat with many others: Only 12 percent of the 1.7 million people in Abu Dhabi now are natives. The common language is English and the university is an English institution.

"So it's not just knowing and understanding this culture, it's knowing and understanding cultures and nationalities around the globe," Morrell says. "Which makes for a really neat experience, but sometimes it can be a really trying experience."

Given all that, Morrell doesn't think the move was strange.

"I've seen a lot of stuff, and I've moved around quite a bit," he says. "I think just the maturity of being 56 and the years of experience really work in my favor."

### Building Health Care Clinics and School Classrooms in Rwanda

Anna Russo fell in love with Africa on a mission with the Peace Corps. She didn't know how much until it was gone.

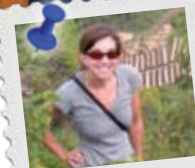
Russo graduated with a degree in French and a minor in visual arts.

She worked various jobs before joining the Peace Corps. She listed Africa as one of her choices for volunteering. Fate took over from there. Her French skills landed her in Cameroon.

It was a different life than the one she had growing up in Fort Collins. She didn't live in a mud hut, but the small village had no running water or electricity. She liked that the people there lived as a community, and not as individuals, as they can in the States.

Following her Peace Corps mission, Russo earned a master's degree from the University of Denver. She then applied for jobs specifically to work in Africa.

That led her to taking a position in Rwanda's capital city of Kigali, where she helped people as a social worker of sorts for a U.S. company that buys coffee from the country.



**Anna Russo**  
(BA-98)  
Rwanda

She worked with farmers and community leaders to determine what they need to improve their lives and the lives of their fellow residents.

The greatest needs generally are in health and education, Russo says, and she recommended and then managed projects including building small health clinics and schools.

The elementary schools will have more than 100 students in one classroom, even though the government-imposed limit is 45. When the company adds more classrooms, the class sizes shrink, making it more likely the students will get a better education, she says.

The need for health care is just as strong. In some villages, people will walk for 10 miles just to get to a clinic, and that's not a hospital, she says, just a little clinic.

Russo says Rwanda, notorious for the stunning genocide that killed as many as a million people, is actually one of the better places to live in Africa. It's clean, the infrastructure is good and there's good public transportation and grocery stores.

Before returning to the U.S. last December, she lived in a three-bedroom house, with a nice view and a garden, and had electricity and running water. She sometimes got frustrated with living in Rwanda, even with things such as spotty Internet service. But she loved her job, especially when she saw the faces of the children who live in those villages, and she knows she helped give them a better life.

Willet has taught first grade for four years at the Yew Chung International School in Shanghai. She knows a little Mandarin but teaches in English.

Willet says it took time to adjust. The yogurt and Goldfish crackers, for instance, aren't as good, and other goods the Chinese consider luxury items are hard to get. She says she misses the clean, cool air in Colorado, that first fresh breath in the morning. She lives in a city with 25 million people.

Even so, she doesn't think she could go back to the U.S.

"I've had so many real cool experiences over here, I just don't think I could go back to living a normal life," Willet says. "I've always wanted to see the world, and what better way to do it than while you're working?"



**Erin Willet**  
(BA-00)  
China

#### Teacher in Shanghai 'Getting Paid to See the World'

One of the things Erin Willet says when she speaks about her experiences in China and her world travels is they make her appreciate being born in the U.S.

She singles out Colorado, especially, calling it a great state.

Yet as much as she loved it, she also realized four years ago she'd rarely left it, save for vacations to Mexico and London. She grew up in Colorado, graduated from UNC in 2000 and went straight into teaching in the Denver area. Then a friend mentioned that she'd taught in Australia for an internship, and that internship turned into moving overseas. And suddenly Willet realized that's what she wanted too.

"I wanted something different and exciting," says Willet. "Why not?"

China pays teachers much more, something that's helped her fulfill her goal to travel the world.

"I wanted to travel but I never had the money to do that," she says, "and now every time I go on a holiday, it's to a different country."



**Kaylah Woody**  
(BA-10)  
Taiwan

#### Starring on an English-Language TV Program in Taiwan

Those who watch the English learning program "Studio Classroom," from San Francisco to Vietnam to New Zealand, may recognize Kaylah Woody as one of the television teachers.

But there may be a day soon when they know her as the voice of a main character in Choobieland, an English-language children's cartoon, which teaches life lessons and friendship and is produced in Taiwan.


Woody, who graduated from the Theatre Education program, helps Studio Classroom produce magazines, and the television programs that accompany them, through teaching on television, acting in skits and script writing. She tours the island a few times a year to teach in person and helps run an English Bible study program — it takes about eight hours to get from one end of the island to the other. Two days on the job are never alike.

When she moved to Taipei, she knew only Chinese greetings. After four months of Chinese lessons, she still uses a translator in meetings, but she can order a meal in a restaurant and survive in a grocery store.


"I can't have a conversation," Woody says. "But I can get by."

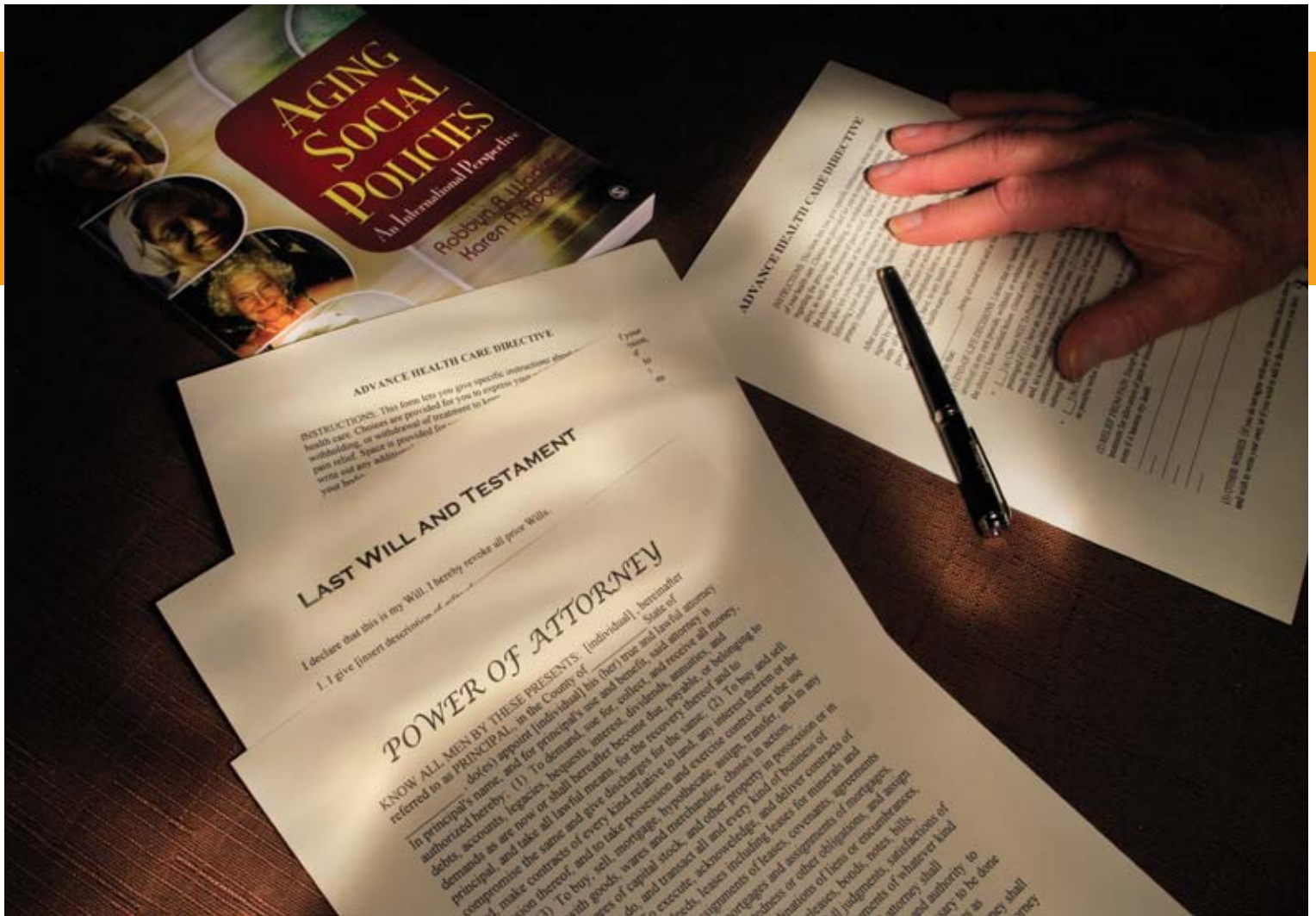
Woody always wanted to work overseas, and when opportunity came along through an agency, she grabbed it. Taiwan had the best offer among the countries that she considered.

"I'm a Christian, and I believe God opened the door for me to come to Taiwan," she says. **NV**

 [View a clip of the program at: www.unco.edu/northernvision.](http://www.unco.edu/northernvision)

—Dan England is a Greeley journalist.

 [View additional photos of the grads at www.unco.edu/northernvision.](http://www.unco.edu/northernvision)



Story by Anne Cumming Rice  
 Photography by Barry Gutierrez

# THE *Conversations* WE ALL NEED TO HAVE

Fears of aging and dying influence necessary end-of-life planning

.....  
*More often than not,  
 critical decisions get  
 made during a crisis.*  
 .....

When Robbyn Wacker's grandfather was in his 90s and living in a senior apartment complex, she asked him if he wanted to go downstairs and play pool with some of the other residents.

"No, I don't want to be around old people," he said.

Ironic as his response sounds, it highlights a reality in our culture — we have a disdain for growing old.

"We do a lot of things to mask that we're aging," says Wacker, UNC Gerontology professor, author of *Aging Social Policies: An International Perspective* and the university's acting provost and senior vice president for the Division of Academic Affairs.

"We think, 'I'm not old. It's a bad thing to be old,' and we don't think that this process of aging is a valuable part of life," Wacker says. "But these are the same attitudes that force us into a crisis when we're faced with our own mortality."

Fear of growing old and dying keeps many older adults from making necessary end-of-life plans — not just about how they want to die, but how they want to live their remaining years. More often than not, critical decisions get made during a crisis.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

It's expected that adults ages 65 and older will increase from the current 13 percent of the U.S. population to 20 percent by 2030, creating a growing need for professionals to go into fields that serve older adults.



People need to ask themselves, 'How do I want to set up my last remaining years on this planet?' Wacker says. "It's a life stage where you want to feel good about what you've done, but you need to prepare for what's ahead. As you age, your social losses become more acute and your independence is dwindling."

Adults ages 65 and older represent about 13 percent of the U.S. population, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Aging. But the number of older adults is increasing. By 2030, the same population is expected to be about 20 percent of the country's population, creating a growing need for professionals to go into fields that serve older adults.

The master's program in Gerontology at UNC trains students to become leaders and experts in the field of aging. One of them is Gemma Wilson, who graduated from the program last spring and works in community and education outreach for Boulder-based Family Hospice.

"So many people don't want to think about getting older and dying until it's too late," Wilson says. "But when it's too late, everyone is stressed out and scrambling. Making plans for the end of your life doesn't have to be this big, scary thing."

## Difficult decisions

There are legal considerations. They include living wills, medical powers of attorney, estate planning and financial issues, such as long-term-care insurance. People in their 40s should be thinking about and determining these issues for themselves, long before many are even thinking about the end of their lives, Wacker says.

But as people grow older, other important decisions are often more emotional and difficult, for both older adults and their children. How do you draw the fine line between allowing an older adult as much independence as possible and being practical about what he or she is able to do? When is it time to have someone come into an older adult's home to help with household tasks? When is it time to move into an assisted-living facility?

When death draws near, who does the older adult want to be there, and what kind of environment will make the person feel most comfortable?

And ultimately, who is responsible for starting the conversation about these issues—the older adult, or their children?

The answer to the latter, ideally, is both.

"There are some people who have this conversation with their kids way early on, but I don't think that's the norm," Wacker says. "I've heard older adults say, 'Well, I'll let the kids sort it out.' That may work in some families, but why risk it? Families may be devastated and hurt in the long run because there wasn't consensus about how to care for mom or dad."

Wacker said she wishes things had happened differently with her mother.

"She was in mid-stage Alzheimer's, and we had all of these issues to figure out, plus concern about her ability to be logical and rational," she says. "I feel bad that she wasn't in control to tell us what she wanted to have happen. You always think you have time to talk about these things, but you don't."

In her work with Family Hospice, Wilson hears from older adults who think they're protecting their children, or keeping them from worrying, by not being upfront about what they want. But the opposite is more often true.

## HOW TO HAVE THE CONVERSATION

### For older adults:

- First, make sure you have taken care of all of the necessary legal documents — medical powers of attorney or a living will and estate planning. It's also a good idea to write up another document at the same time about other important issues, including funeral wishes and burial or cremation preferences, and how they will be paid for.
- Keep these documents in an accessible place and tell a trusted person where to find them.
- Talk to your children about your desires. It is essential that you talk to them before a crisis hits to ensure that your wishes are honored. This is important because some family members may be reluctant to decline life-prolonging treatment without a prior clear expression from you.
- Remember that your children love you and want what's best for you. If you don't communicate with them about these important matters, you actually create more of a burden for them, not less.

### For children of older adults:

- Consider starting the conversation by talking about yourself and your own end-of-life planning, such as your living will or medical powers of attorney. Then ask your parents whether they have decided on these things for themselves.
- On matters about your parents' independence, do some research about what resources are available to seniors in their area such as transportation and household help. Approach it as offering information to your parents and allowing them to own any decision for themselves.
- Death is a part of life, so families need to talk about it. There needs to be intimate discussions and sharing of values, preferences and choices. Ask questions such as: "What does it mean to live well?" and "How can I care for you well at this point in your life?"
- Consider the emotional triggers for your parents. Is it moving out of their house? Is it not wanting to be a burden to their children? Communicate that the best thing your parents can do for you is be honest and involve you in the process of these decisions.

Sources: *Weld Area Agency on Aging*, [www.transitioningparents.com](http://www.transitioningparents.com), [www.agingcare.com](http://www.agingcare.com)



.....

In her work with Family Hospice, Gemma Wilson hears from older adults who think they're protecting their children or keeping them from worrying by not being upfront about what they want. But the opposite is more often true.

.....



“It’s so important for the family to know what you want,” she says. “It can diminish arguments and make things so much easier for your children.”

Children bringing up the issue should do some research about what options are available, says Eva Jewell (MA-Gerontology, 1988), executive director of the Weld Area Agency on Aging.

“Rarely do we like to be told what to do,” Jewell says. “Try an educational approach—here are the possibilities out there. The most successful care plan is when the person owns the choice and doesn’t feel like they were forced into doing something.”

There are 629 area agencies on aging nationwide (16 in Colorado), which offer information on everything from living wills and estate planning to senior transportation. Sometimes the best person to start the conversation isn’t a family member. Perhaps it’s an older adult’s doctor, attorney or bank-trust officer.

## Preventing powerlessness

One of the most important things to consider is how to help older adults stay tied to their communities as their independence diminishes. Ina Katich started Denver-based Elder Concierge Services in 2000 after serving as a guardian and conservator for older adults for years.

“We take people out of wherever they are and take them to where they need to go—the movies, the dentist, restaurants. And we talk to them about what’s going on in their lives,” says Katich, who worked for the American Bar

Association and ran the Denver Commission on Aging under former Denver Mayor Federico Peña. “The scary thing about growing older is isolation. Your friends are dying around you, and you can’t envision the next five or 10 years of your life. It’s a powerless feeling.”

Elder Concierge Services charges an average of about \$50 an hour, and for clients who need more, between \$400 and \$1,000 a month for outings two or three times a week.

Katich, 55, says her experience with older adults has shown her how she’d like to handle her own retirement years.

“I’m already thinking about how I want my life to look in the future,” she says. “I want to make sure I retire in an area where I’m surrounded by people I really like and who I have common interests with, so that when we need something like transportation, we can hire someone together.”

Katich said she believes the aging generation of Baby Boomers will make end-of-life decisions differently than their parents did.

“I think a lot of people in my generation have watched their parents get older,” she says. “They see the issues and want to handle things differently for themselves.” **NV**

—Anne Cumming Rice is a Denver freelance writer and former college journalism instructor.

## LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

**Financial decisions:** These include an up-to-date will and trust documents if desired or needed. A durable power of attorney for financial affairs is a legally binding document that designates a trusted person to act for you if you become incapacitated. An attorney can help you with these documents.

**Advanced directives:** These are written instructions that communicate your wishes about the medical care and treatment you want to receive if you reach the point where you can no longer speak for yourself. Advanced directives cover life-sustaining treatment including artificial feeding, mechanical ventilators, resuscitation, defibrillation, antibiotics, dialysis and other invasive procedures. You can also state whether you want to receive only palliative or comfort care, most commonly administered under hospice care. There are two types of advanced directives:

- **A durable power of attorney for health care** (also called the medical power of attorney) names a trusted person, usually a relative or friend, to make medical decisions for you when you are not able. You can give specific instructions about treatments you want or don’t want. Because this is a legal document, it must be signed to be valid. Some states require a witness.
- **A living will** is a more limited advanced directive. It states your desires regarding life-sustaining or life-prolonging medical treatment, but it does not appoint a surrogate to make decisions for you. All but three states (California, Massachusetts and New York) recognize a living will as legally binding.

## Additional resources:

- Family Caregiver Alliance: [www.caregiver.org](http://www.caregiver.org)
- “On Our Own Terms” featuring PBS’ Bill Moyers: [www.pbs.org/wnet/onourown/terms](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/onourown/terms)
- “Five Wishes,” a guide that will help you answer important questions about end-of-life health care decisions: [www.agingwithdignity.org](http://www.agingwithdignity.org)

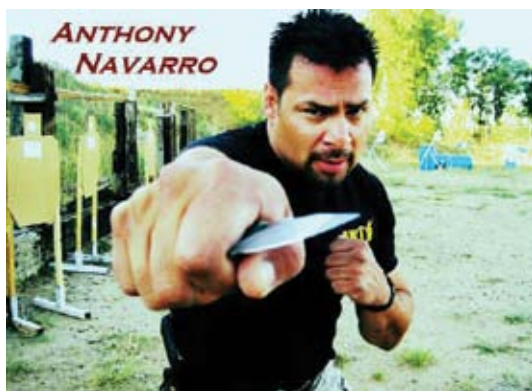
 **Online:** For information on planned giving visit [unco.giftlegacy.com](http://unco.giftlegacy.com)

# A Dose of

# REALITY TV

Story by Chris Casey

Graduates break into a popular genre, starring in roles with ubiquitous cameras capturing every moment of their competitions, social experiments and lives



## Anthony Navarro, *One Man Army*.

Finished first on *One Man Army* in fall 2011. Graduated from UNC in 1996 with a degree in Nursing.  
[www.coloradoshootingsports.com](http://www.coloradoshootingsports.com)

With the proliferation of reality TV shows and their popularity among audiences — *American Idol*, *The Voice*, *Dancing with the Stars* and *Survivor* ranked in the top 10 shows among coveted audiences in 2010-11 — UNC alumni have found themselves in front of the cameras to test their skills or just have a “what-the-heck” experience.

*Northern Vision* contributor Chris Casey caught up with five of those graduates, who reflect on their moments in the spotlight and life after their appearances.

## Anthony Navarro, *Discovery Channel's One Man Army*

Anthony Navarro has always admired the service branches.

That interest, combined with his fierce will to win, prompted him to apply to be on *One Man Army*. The show bills itself as “a competition series where the toughest of the tough go head-to-head in events that would sideline regular contestants in an instant.”

For five days of taping, Navarro, 41, was pitted against men who were half his age and had military experiences that he lacked.

Each day, Navarro looked for their weak spots and exploited them, then iced his knees to prepare for the next day's physical challenge. In the final challenge, he and another competitor worked to disarm IEDs.

“I'm literally about to pass out in the suit — it was so hot and had no air,” Navarro says. “It was insane ... I would do it all over again, all five days. As competition drags on, most people start to drop off. I start to pick up.”

The hardest thing for Navarro to pull off was keeping his improbable first-place finish a secret while the show aired in September. For each episode, his friends and family — Navarro owns Colorado Shooting Sports in Greeley — filled a sports bar to watch him pull, tug and grind his way to the win.

“They were fearful for me,” he says of his fans, who knew he'd blown an ACL and broken an ankle not long ago. “I was getting shredded. In one challenge I sacrificed my knee rather than lose the match. I would rather have an injury than lose.”

That competitiveness was stoked early in life, when Navarro, a wrestler, was frequently told he was too light to compete.

He won \$10,000 on *One Man Army*, with a good chunk going to taxes and the rest going to his daughter's braces and other family obligations. He continues to be inspired by his son — who has been in Special Operations in the military in Afghanistan — and his 10-year-old daughter.

Navarro says he'd go on another reality show in a “heartbeat” as long as it was the right challenge.

“It's literally like I have something chasing me,” he says. “I have to keep moving or it will catch up. You can't sit still is the whole idea here. You have to keep trying to get better.”



## Kim Dawson, NBC's *Sing Off*

Kim Dawson realized she'd been elevated to a new level of stature when she was at Disneyland last December and was recognized by a girl who asked to take a picture with her.

Just weeks earlier, Dawson and her singing group, Urban Method, finished third on the popular NBC show *Sing Off*. The show begins each season with 16 a cappella groups vying for a recording contract and a \$200,000 prize.

The eight-member Urban Method is made up of mostly professional singers from the Denver area, Dawson says. She also performs with two other groups, including her eponymous jazz quartet group.

Following Urban Method's selection after submitting an audition video, taping for *Sing Off* took place during 2 ½ months last summer. Because the final two shows are done live and Urban Method was among the finalists, the band returned to Los Angeles for three weeks at the end of 2011.

For most of the season, a judging panel selects the groups that advance in the competition. It's up to TV viewers, however, to select the winner from the three finalists.

"We don't really look at it ever as a shoulda, coulda or woulda," Dawson says of finishing third.

"Nobody was unhappy with the way it went."

Dawson says she didn't do the show to achieve a measure of celebrity, and she doesn't plan to do another one.

"It was something to see what it was like and how we'd do," she says. "I was already singing pretty regularly and professionally."

For Urban Method, which was put together to audition for the show, *Sing Off* did become a springboard.

"It has given us national exposure, which is always a good thing," Dawson says. "And we get good gigs because of it."



## Kim Dawson, *Sing Off*.

Appeared in fall 2011 and her singing group, Urban Method, finished third. Dawson graduated from UNC in 2005 with a degree in Music-Vocal Performance. [www.kimdawsonmusic.com](http://www.kimdawsonmusic.com) and [www.urbanmethod.com](http://www.urbanmethod.com)



## Wayne Johnson, *Iron Chef*.

Left UNC in 1980 after completing 3 ½ years of school, studying accounting and business. Finished runner-up on *Iron Chef America* in summer 2011. Photo by Paul Ishii. [www.chefwaj.com](http://www.chefwaj.com)

## Wayne Johnson, Food Network's *Iron Chef America*

The "what-the-heck" experience started when Johnson got an invitation from one of *Iron Chef America*'s producers.

The program opens with competing chefs learning the surprise ingredient they must work into each of five dishes in 60 minutes.

"Probably the most intense part was trying to create recipes somewhat on the fly," Johnson says.

As soon as the ingredient was revealed — cucumbers — and the clock began ticking, the former UNC wrestler's competitive drive and composure kicked in.

"I grabbed the salmon and once that knife went through the salmon it was like 'game on,'" he says.

His years at Marriott — moving from Vail to San Francisco to Santa Clara, with promotions along the way — taught him how to cook fast.

His team didn't win the competition, but Johnson feels they "did a fantastic job" and should have won. "The guys we were up against had been on the set time and time again so they knew their way around. I'm working on going back again."

He credits his TV credentials for being named executive chef at Seattle's iconic restaurant Ray's Boathouse following his appearance on the show.

"I wasn't looking, that's for sure. They just knocked on the door," he says of Ray's, where he's in charge of serving 400-500 lunches a day in the cafe and guests in the specialty boathouse restaurant at night.

"I think there's probably more to come [from being on the show]," says Johnson, who's also been invited to perform cooking demos on Caribbean cruises.



## Mike Manning, *The Real World*.

Appeared on *Real World D.C.*, a show that doesn't have a competitive format, from January to April 2010. Graduated from UNC in 2009 with a Business degree. Photos courtesy of MTV. [www.mikecmanning.com](http://www.mikecmanning.com)

## Mike Manning, MTV's *The Real World*

Mike Manning was in the home stretch of earning his business degree in 2009 when a fellow student asked if he'd be the "wingman" in his audition for *The Real World*.

Manning had done some theater, so his friend sought useful audition advice.

"I wasn't going to audition," Manning says. "They called me into the room, and I chatted it up with the casting director. That led to another session and another session. I had never even watched the show before I was on it. I didn't know what I was getting myself into."

Manning was among the eight strangers chosen to live together in *Real World D.C.* The non-competitive show is a social experiment to see what unfolds in the housemates' lives. It aired from January to April 2010.

Manning's nascent political career — he was involved with Students in Free Enterprise and other UNC school groups — blossomed on *The Real World*.

"I ended up working for the Human Rights Campaign," he says. "I lobbied Congress for equal rights for people. That was kind of my shtick."

Manning still isn't a fan of the reality circuit.

"They film you all day," he says. "No cell phone. No radio. No TV. It's very, very intrusive."

But he acknowledges it opened doors. A working actor in Los Angeles, Manning will appear in three independently produced movies this year.

"It made me realize I could have a career in front of a camera," he says. "If it were not for this show, I'd probably still be in Colorado. ... working in a bank, because that's what I studied."

## Cassidie Sheets, CMT's *Sweet Home Alabama*

Like Manning, Cassidie Sheets' reality TV experience was born out of a random conversation with another UNC student.

"It was more or less a fluke encounter," she says. "My roommate and I were up one night watching an episode of *The Bachelor* when she thought it would be a good idea to enter my name in *The Bachelor* online application."

Not expecting a response, Sheets got an email requesting a video audition. She sent a video and was soon invited to audition for a different show, *Sweet Home Alabama*.

She had never seen the show, so she watched episodes online from Season I. The premise is grouping 11 girls from the city with 11 from the country in hopes that one of them ends up being selected "the girl" for the country boy from Alabama — in this case, Tribble Reese, former quarterback at Clemson University.

"Honestly, my expectations of actually finding someone that I had a connection with were slim to none," Sheets says. "Shortly after we began filming I realized that I was in for an unexpected ride. My feelings for Tribble were strong, and we ended up having a good connection."

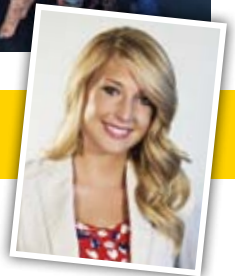
Sheets lasted on the show until episode six of eight. Only four girls were left on the night she was sent home.

"I wasn't by any means expecting this experience to skyrocket my career," she says. "However, I have been blessed with opportunities that I know I wouldn't have had if it weren't for being on the show."

Sheets earns her living as a social media and public relations specialist in San Diego. She also runs her own fashion blog, *Sa-vo-r*, which she started in 2008, and she appears in fashion segments on TV news stations.

She says she'd love to appear on another show.

"It is such a unique experience and really enables you to form relationships with people that you might not otherwise," Sheets says. **NV**



## Cassidie Sheets, *Sweet Home Alabama*.

Appeared in fall 2011 on *Sweet Home Alabama*. Made it until the sixth episode of eight. Graduated from UNC in 2010 with a degree in journalism and mass communications. Photos courtesy of CMT. [www.cassidiesheets.com](http://www.cassidiesheets.com)



Online: Watch clips from the shows at [www.unco.edu/northernvision](http://www.unco.edu/northernvision)

—Chris Casey is a Denver freelance writer.

# HAIL TO THE CHIEF'S VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

*White House tour in 1977 leads alumna to presidential role she's held for more than 35 years*

—By Mike Peters (BA-68)



Estelle Chandler (BA-62)

**E**stelle Chandler, a 1962 graduate of what was then Colorado State College, not only has 40 years of teaching behind her, she's also been a volunteer at the White House since Jimmy Carter was president.

"I was on a tour one day in 1977," Chandler says from her home in Fairfax, Va., "when the crowd literally pushed me and the first lady into each other face-to-face. The next day, when I went back to visit the White House at a quieter time, Rosalynn Carter said, 'Why don't you come to work for us?'"

Now retired, Chandler volunteers up to five days a week.

It's no secret, Chandler acknowledges, the president can't read all correspondence, so White House volunteers screen the letters, calls and emails, and then relate the most important ones to the White House staff.

"We also send out morning memos because the president wants to know how the people of the country are feeling," she says. The volunteers are also asked to provide background faces during some speeches and greet visiting dignitaries in the Rose Garden. She has served as hostess in the White House for Christmas visitors.

Growing up in Milwaukee, Wis., Chandler marched and demonstrated in the streets during the civil rights movement. That caused a small problem many years later when Rosalynn Carter asked her to work in the White House. "It took the Secret Service eight months to clear me because they had pictures of me in those demonstrations."

After finishing high school, she went to a school she'd never heard of in Colorado because she wanted to become a teacher. "I told the administrator at Colorado State College that my grades in high school weren't very good, but if they'd overlook them, I would make them proud."

At CSC, she lived in Wiebking and Wilson halls, becoming president of the latter her sophomore year. Her family didn't have the money to pay for college, so she went to her counselor, asking "for any kind of scholarship." At the time, she was a Methodist, and the counselor found the Wesleyan

Foundation Scholarship for her. "I'm so thankful," Chandler says. "That scholarship carried me through school."

After graduating, she began teaching and married Army soldier Charles Chandler. They lived around the world, with Estelle teaching at every post they were assigned. When Charles retired as a colonel, they moved near Washington, D.C.

Estelle went on to earn a master's degree from Boston University, and a master's of Divinity from Howard University. She is now a retired teacher and an associate minister at the Greater Little Zion Baptist Church in Fairfax.

She says somewhere in her house is a cardboard box full of letters from various presidents thanking her for her volunteer work. She has photos of her in group shots with the presidents and first ladies, and has met face-to-face with President Clinton and First Lady Carter. Her favorite photo is with Rosalynn Carter. "You know the other signatures might be rubber stamps," Estelle says. "But not this one. She signed it herself."

*"We all know how much President Clinton liked to eat. His food was the best we've ever had."*

She enjoyed working with the Clinton administration the most, for an odd reason: When the White House chefs prepare a meal, they send the same food over to the volunteers," Estelle says. "We all know how much President Clinton liked to eat. His food was the best we've ever had."

And now, with a lifetime of memories, Chandler would like to return for her college's 50-year reunion in Greeley this coming year.

"I'd really like to see how much the school has changed," she says. **NV**

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



Online: Save the dates – Oct. 5-6 for the 50-Year Reunion honoring the class of 1962. Visit [www.uncalumni.org/events](http://www.uncalumni.org/events) for more information.

 Submit your Class Note online at [www.unco.edu/northernvision](http://www.unco.edu/northernvision)

# Class Notes

Compiled and edited by Margie Meyer

## 1950s

**Gerald Grunsk** (MA-59), Evergreen, served as chair of the English department at Highland Park (Illinois) High School for 18 years and was a high school and college sports official for 45 years. Since retiring in 1988, Jerry has written and published 326 magazine articles, contributed five chapters in a teaching text, and has authored, co-authored, edited or contributed to 24 books. He won a contest in November for a historical article published in the *Historically Jeffco* magazine.

## 1960s



**Goldman "Glenn" Davenport** (MA-60), Calimesa, Calif., worked in college relations and taught Educational Statistics and Philosophy of Education at Union College in Lincoln, Neb. He has a doctorate from the University of Nebraska.

**Garland "Gar" Wiggs** (MA-60), Wytheville, Va., retired in June after serving 41 years as a university professor in the fields of business and adult education while concurrently conducting a consulting practice in organizational development, technical training and executive outplacement. He volunteers at the Wytheville Outpatient VA Clinic.

**Richard Shively** (BA-61, MA-66) and **Rosemary (Austin) Shively** (BA-61, MA-90), Moscow, Idaho, taught English in the Czech Republic from January through mid-April and September through mid-December.

**Ann (Struble) Birkle** (MA-62), Ann Arbor, Mich., taught elementary physical education until her retirement. She was the president of the University of Michigan Club of Ann Arbor and worked with the coaches at the university. Ann enjoys gardening, golfing and spending time with her grandchildren.

## 1970s

**Donald (Don-Paul) Benjamin** (BA-70, MA-78), Phoenix, serves as e-advisor for Phoenix College, helping with the college chat line and working with students by email. Don-Paul also works as a freelance author, cartoonist and arts educator.

**Dan Carey** (MA-72, PhD-75), Madison, Wis., was elected chair of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Dan has been president of Edgewood College since 2005 and previously served for nine years as president of Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

**James "Mac" Light** (BM-73), Las Vegas, teaches music at Whitney Elementary School in Las Vegas. He wrote a Hanukkah song for two-part treble voices called "Light a Little Candle," which was published by Shawnee Press. Mac has also placed two songs on Internet radio — "When Stars Collide" and "I Need the Moonlight."

**Ron Morris** (BS-75), Johnstown, owns Ranch Marketing Associates LLC and has more than 35 years of real estate experience, specializing in large ranch properties throughout the western United States.

**Susan Wardlow** (BA-75, MA-77), Coarsegold, Calif., is a substitute teacher in Madera County. She actively volunteers with organizations that restore California's historic sites and with a local child development center. Susan is a member of Cambridge Who's Who.

**Johannas Jordan** (EdD-76), Bemidji, Minn., was ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church in October and serves the parish of St. Bartholomew's in Bemidji. She splits her time between Bemidji and Scottsdale, Arizona, and is married to David "Doc" Jordan.

**Christina Smith** (MA-76), Tulsa, Okla., is retired after 41 years of teaching university health and physical education courses and coaching high school and collegiate volleyball, basketball, tennis, softball and field hockey. She served 23 years with the United States Army Reserves and is currently a volunteer for Disaster Services in Tulsa.

**Gene Owens** (MA-78), San Antonio, retired from the Air Force in 1983. He was wounded during the Vietnam Conflict and earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Service Medal and Vietnam Gallantry Cross.

**Margie Soran** (BME-78), Edina, Minn., was elected to the board of directors of The Family Partnership, one of the oldest nonprofit organizations in the Twin Cities. Margie has 30 years of teaching experience and is the founder of Social Venture Partners Teen Program and is affiliated with Twin Cities RISE and Genysis Works.



## UNOPENED LOVE LETTERS FROM WWII REVEAL A WIFE WHO NEVER GAVE UP HOPE

Before Dr. Bill Brenner left to serve in World War II, his wife promised to write him biweekly letters. When 63 of those letters were returned, Josephine didn't know if her husband was dead or alive.

Bill was held as a POW in the Philippines for 18 months, surviving the Bataan Death March, three death camps and time in a British Commonwealth camp before returning home to his wife and son at the end of the war — four years after he had left.

When **Linda (Fox) McCaffery** (MA-76) heard of Bill's story, the history instructor at Barton Community College in Great Bend, Kan., contacted him to see if he would share his experiences through an oral history. At first, he politely declined. One year later, Linda received a phone call from Bill saying he had changed his mind.

After Linda and Bill's initial meeting, Bill brought Josephine along for the second. As Bill recounted his experiences, Josephine began to cry.

"Many of the things he was telling me, she was hearing for the very first time," Linda says.

It was then that Linda was told about the returned letters, still unopened and sitting in a shoebox at their home.

"While discussing the letters, Bill suggested we share not just his story but the hardships his wife endured as well," Linda says. "First we thought of putting on a program, then we considered writing an article; eventually, we decided it was best to write a book."

*I'm Praying Hard for You, "Love Letters to a Death Camp: The World War II Ordeal of Bill and Jo Brenner* is a combination of Josephine's letters and Bill's words. The book tells the story of why the couple's love for one another helped them never give up hope, even in the worst of circumstances.

Linda and Bill, who now is 97 years old (Josephine passed away in July 2000), hope to commission a bronze statue with the proceeds from the book's sales. The statue would be placed in Bill's hometown of Larned, Kan. It would feature a soldier returning from war and a woman and child running toward him, dedicated to all who served and all who waited.

—Katie Owston, junior, Journalism major

**Michael Bierwiler** (MA-79), Bedford, Texas, was a finalist in the North Texas Book Festival in April 2011. Michael's two decades of law enforcement experience in one of the largest police departments in Texas brings the characters in *The Color of Darkness* to life. He graduated from the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston University and holds master's certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education. He has authored three other novels, *Mist on the River*, *Living in Quiet Rage* and *Hiding in the Shadow of Heaven*.

## 1980s

**Bergin Michels** (BA-81), New York City, portrayed Robert Crowder on an episode of *Fatal Encounters*, an NBC Peacock Production that aired on Investigation Discovery Channel in March.

**M. Katharine "Katie" Collins** (BA-82), Aurora, was named a Five Star Wealth Manager by Five Star Professional, in partnership with *5280 Magazine* and *ColoradoBiz Magazine*. The research methodology of nine criteria resulted in a finalist list representing less than four percent of licensed wealth managers in the greater Denver-metro area.

**Virginia (Boone) Martin** (BS-82), Vancouver, Wash., teaches language arts and history in Battle Ground, Wash. She earned her master's degree from Concordia University in Portland, Ore. Ginger and her husband **Bradley Martin** (BS-81), who works at Westmark Industries in Lake Oswego, Ore., have four sons and two granddaughters.

**Bruce Nolan** (BS-82), Girard, Pa., is the head recreational therapist within the Behavioral Medicine Unit at Ashtobula County Medical Center.



**Linda Parker** (MA-83), Bellevue, Wash., **Teresa (Sparks) Throssell** (BA-79), Bellevue, Wash. and **Susan (Nielsen) Malan** (BA-78), Issaquah, Wash., didn't know each

other until they began working together as the special education team at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. They enjoyed posing in their Bear-gear at Christmas.

## 1990s

**Chris Caesar** (BA-93), Houston, is the Director of Dropout Prevention for the Houston Independent School District. He previously worked for five years as a manager of dropout prevention programs at the Texas Education Agency in Austin.

**Michael Kelly** (BA-95), San Ramon, Calif., earned Professional Certified Investigator (PCI) Board Certification from ASIS International. Michael is board-certified as a Physical Security and Certified Protection Professional as well, and is one of just 56 ASIS members to earn all three board certifications. (ASIS has a total membership of 37,000.) He earned an MBA in 2008 and is an account manager for AlliedBarton Security Services. Michael and his wife Angela have three children.

**Stephanie (Mitchell) Torrez** (BA-95, MA-04), Greeley, was appointed Assistant Dean for Academic Support at UNC's University College. Stephanie will continue to oversee the Office of Academic Advising, but will be involved in strategic planning and student advocacy university-wide.

**Andrea (Eatherton) Hardy** (BA-96, MA-98), Tucson, earned a Doctor of Audiology degree from Arizona School of Health Sciences. For the past 12 years she has provided hearing healthcare to adults in Tucson and Green Valley, Arizona. She and her husband have one son.

**David Brumley** (BA-98), Pittsburgh, Pa., won the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of independent research careers. He was one of 20 nominated for the award for his research on malicious software analysis and for his educational and outreach activities. David is an assistant professor at Carnegie Mellon University, where he is faculty adviser for CMU's "Capture the Flag" team, which has won three international competitions. He earned a master's degree in computer science in 2003 from Stanford University and a PhD in 2008 from Carnegie Mellon.



## DECEMBERS TO REMEMBER FOR COUPLE

When they landed at Denver International Airport this past December, **Kristine Nakano (BA-60, MA-61)** and **Alvin Saiki (BA-61)** thought they were just heading to Breckenridge with several family members for a winter vacation in celebration of the couple's 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 23.

They knew something else was in store when their van started heading north on Interstate 25, and that's when their two daughters revealed they'd arranged a surprise visit to the UNC campus, where the retired teachers met as freshmen in December 1958. Their visit included a customized guided tour of campus, lots of reminiscing and the re-creation of a family heirloom — a photograph taken of the couple embracing on the steps of Belford Hall, where Kristine was living in December 1960.

"It was sad to see that the Bru-Inn and other parts of our lives from here were gone," Alvin says. "But it was nice to see that so many buildings were still in good shape and to realize how much the university has grown."

UNC

## SUPPORT A BEAR!

Senior **Laurenda Weber** knows firsthand that private support is a powerful gift for our students. Read her story and see a list of 2010-11 donors at [www.uncalumni.org/HonorRoll](http://www.uncalumni.org/HonorRoll)

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UNC Annual Fund

**Michael Muskin (BA-76, MA-87)**, Director  
970-351-2551 or 800-332-1862

## 2000s

**Tracy (Dirkes) Blevins** (BA-00), La Junta, teaches at La Junta High School and Otero Junior College. In May 2011, Tracy became the first and only graduate from Adams State College to receive a master's degree in Humanities with an emphasis in American History. She and her husband Brian have two children, Kaden and Abigail.

**Sarah Tallman** (BA-00), Lakewood, is a dancer and lead choreographer with the Ballet Nouveau Colorado in Broomfield.



**Jennifer McGrath** (BA-01), Denver, is an employing broker and owner of Tradewinds Property Management, LLC. She has 10 years experience in the real estate industry.

**Nicole Kunze** (MS-04, PhD-06), Bismarck, N.D., is an assistant professor and chair of the chemistry department at the University of Mary in Bismarck. She is the recipient of the 2011-2012 University of Mary Regents' Award for Teaching Faculty, the highest award presented to faculty for demonstrating outstanding service; fostering a positive learning environment; showing respect and concern for students, colleagues and guests; and for advancing the Christian Catholic and Benedictine mission of the university.

**Chad Chisholm** (BA-05, BA-08), Denver, photographed a seven-page spread for *Denver Life Magazine*, which included the cover for the holiday edition. A professional photographer and travel writer in the commercial and fine art fields, Chad has explored more than 25 countries and 25 states. He continues to work around the globe photographing and writing about his international experiences.



Online: Weigner featured in February 2005 alumni magazine

**Michael Schwartz** (MA-05) Canon City, teaches at Canon City High School.

**Gisele (Shea) Berzins** (MA-09), Berthoud, is a licensed professional counselor with a private psychotherapy practice specializing in grief and loss.

**Linsi Kohlhepp** (BM-09), Palmer Lake, studied in England and taught music history and geography at a private school in Indiana before marrying in 2011 and moving to Germany to be with her husband.

**Michael Mullen** (BS-09), Castle Rock, is a licensed financial advisor for Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in the Denver Tech Center.

## 2010s

**John Morgan** (BA-10), Littleton, enlisted in the United States Navy under the Delayed Entry Program at Navy Recruiting District, Raleigh, N.C.

**Kelly Artz** (BA-11), Los Angeles, is studying at UCLA in the film directing graduate program.

## On Stage

The following graduates of UNC's College of Performing and Visual Arts advanced their careers by being cast in productions, hired for technical positions or earning awards during the past six months.

The 2012 Broadway season opened in January with six UNC alumni appearing on stages along "The Great White Way." They include:

**Jason Veasey** (BA-04) in *The Lion King*, **Derek Hanson** (BA-04) in *Anything Goes*, **Alena Watters** (BA-03) in *Sister Act*, **Josh Buscher** (BA-08) in *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, **Jenny Fellner** (BA-00) in *Wicked* and **Victoria Matlock** (BA-99) in *Million Dollar Quartet*.

## MARATHON MAN CONTINUES RECORD-BREAKING PACE

**Brent Weigner** (BA-72) is no stranger to breaking running records. The retired geography teacher and junior high cross-country coach in Cheyenne, Wyo., has been setting them most of his life.

On Dec. 2, the 62-year-old cancer survivor added more milestones by becoming the oldest person in the world to run an ultra-marathon (any distance greater than 26.2 miles) on the continent of Antarctica.

By finishing fourth in the Antarctic Ice Marathon and 100k, he also broke the 60-and-over record set in 2012, and the U.S. record set in 2006. He covered the 62.1 miles, facing a wind chill of 12 below zero, in 15 hours, 41 minutes, 4 seconds.



## BROKEN LEG DOESN'T DETER METEOROLOGIST DURING FLOODING

National Weather Service meteorologist **Tanja (Henson) Fransen** (BA-95) didn't let a broken leg slow her down when record flooding swept through northeastern Montana last spring.

Tanja, a warning coordination specialist in Glasgow, Mont., put her injury aside — not only serving as the regional voice of the National Weather Service but also by assisting on site (with her right leg in a cast) when flooding was at its worst. From her truck, Fransen recruited members of the community to help her family and other volunteers fill sandbags to protect residents and their homes along Cherry Creek.

For her efforts, Tanja was named "Montana Hero of the Day" June 23 by U.S. Sen. Max Baucus, and she also received the National Weather Service Western Region Isaac Cline Award for Outreach. During the past year, she and a colleague were presented with the NOAA Administrators Award for researching and implementing a Cold Advisory for Newborn Livestock that was developed in her office.

Tanja interned with the National Weather Service when she was a senior in 1994, and she credits Professor Emeritus Glen Cobb for his guidance.

"That jump-start on my career was a huge step for me, and I don't know if I'd be where I am today without my professor's connections and encouragement," she says.

—Katie Owston, junior, Journalism major

In 1999, Weigner became the first person to run ultra-marathons on all seven continents, a feat which he completed in 267 days — a record that still stands today. He's the only person to have run ultra-marathons at the North and South poles.

At UNC, Weigner competed on the track team and UNC's first cross-country team. He became one of the first two UNC student-athletes in school history to qualify for the NCAA Cross Country National Championships.

"Records come and go," Weigner says. "What I enjoy is thinking about new records to set that are out of the ordinary."

—Elizabeth Same, senior, Journalism major

**Greg Germann** (BA-78) was cast as a regular on the Showtime TV series *House of Lies*, and also made television appearances on *Raising Hope*, *Aim High* and *Hawaii Five-O*. His latest feature film — *Here Comes the Boom* — is set for a summer/fall release.

**Tamara Hayden** (BM-85), has performed on Broadway as Cosette in *Les Misérables* and Texas in *Cabaret at Studio 54*. She has produced three CDs: *I Believe In The Fire*, *A Day At The Fair*, and *Unwrapped*, as well as a music video of her song, *Eden Will Bloom*. She is touring with *Angus Mohr's Highland Rock and Roll* and, as part of the tour, is the guest artist at the Rialto Theater in Loveland in May.

**Andy Kelso** (BA-02) has been cast as Fiyero in the national tour of the hit Broadway musical *Wicked*, which played Denver's Buell Theatre in April.

**Megan Van De Hey** (BA-99) was named Actress of the Year in the *Denver Post's* 2011 Ovation Awards. She was cast in the spring production of the musical *Chess* at the Arvada Center for the Arts and will appear this summer in the Little Theatre of the Rockies' production of *Next to Normal*.

**Melissa Kidd** (BA-06) has worked for the past two seasons as the set costumer on *The Closer*. She will move to a spin-off show titled *Major Crimes* when *The Closer* wraps production this season.

**Brian Scott** (BA-08), ringmaster for the Barnum and Bailey Circus, signed a one-year extension to his contract.

**Pearl (Lindsay) Thomas** (BA-03) appeared in two segments of the ABC-TV series *What Would You Do?* in January.

**Christopher Sergeeff** (97-99) is currently appearing as an ensemble member as well as covering the roles of Pepper and Eddie in the National Equity Tour of *Mama Mia*. The tour played the Union Colony Civic Center in Greeley in February.


**Elyse (Anderson) Porterfield** (BA-10) was selected for a national print ad for Nike and filmed a national commercial for a new iPad-to-TV program called "youtoo." Her TV pilot *Drama* was shown in a New York Film Festival. In addition, Porterfield appeared on *Pretty Little Liars* (ABC Family) as a swim team member and was cast as a regular on *CSI-NY* as a lab technician in the CSI crime laboratory.

**Hannah Marie Hines (Middleton)** (BA-08) was cast in the Player King Productions staging of Dennis Lehane's play *Coronado* and in an indie short film titled *7 Days*.

**Emily Van Fleet** (BA-12) completed the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's production of *Duke Energy's Yuletide Celebration* and is scheduled this summer to play Janet in *Drowsy Chaperone* and Fifi in a world premiere called *Harry the Great* at Creede Repertory Theatre.

**Lincoln Hayes** (BA-07), appeared in an episode of *Pan Am* on ABC.

*Legend: B.A. - Bachelor of Arts; B.S. - Bachelor of Science; B.M. - Bachelor of Music; B.M.E. - Bachelor of Music Education; M.A. - Master of Arts; M.S. - Master of Science; 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; Ed.S. - Educational Specialist*

 Online: For more "On Stage" visit [www.unco/northernvision](http://www.unco/northernvision)

**FORBES LISTS GRAD AMONG NATION'S MOST POWERFUL CEOs 40 AND UNDER**

**J. Justin Hutchens** (BS-95) was named one of America's most powerful CEOs under the age of 40 by *Forbes*. The 2012 listing includes chief executive officers



who run the biggest publicly traded companies — Google, Under Armour and Groupon are among them. Justin, 37, is CEO of National Health Investors Inc., an investment trust that specializes in financing healthcare real estate, including nursing facilities, assisted- and independent-living facilities, medical office buildings, and hospitals. Hutchens graduated with a bachelor's degree in Human Rehabilitation Services from UNC and subsequently obtained a management degree.

Justin started his career in healthcare as a resident assistant at a Greeley care facility while a student at UNC. Following his father's advice to excel in his work, no matter what level of responsibility he had, Hutchens worked his way up through six companies over the next 18 years.

In 2009, he joined National Health Investors Inc. as president and chief operating officer and two years later he was appointed chief executive.

Justin lives in Tennessee with his wife, **Tiffani** (BA-95, MA-97), who holds degrees in Liberal Arts and Special Education from UNC.

 Online: View the *Forbes* article at [www.uncalumni.org](http://www.uncalumni.org)

## Class Notes Submission Form

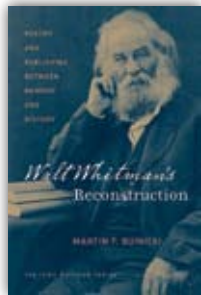
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major \_\_\_\_\_ Degree/GraduationYear \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student activity involvement \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  Check if new address  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's Major/Degree/Grad Year if alumna/us \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am pleased to share the following news to be published in Class Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please fill out form and mail to Northern Vision, Campus Box 20, Greeley, CO 80639 or e-mail your Class Note to [northernvision@unco.edu](mailto:northernvision@unco.edu). Submit photos electronically at 300 dpi or greater.

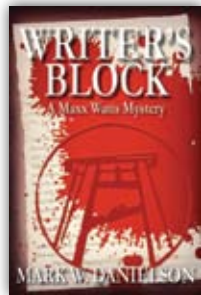
# Book Notes

Published works by alumni, faculty, staff and students

Compiled and edited by Margie Meyer



**Martin Buinicki** (BA-95, MA-97), Valparaiso, Ind., is the author of *Walt Whitman's Reconstruction: Poetry and Publishing between Memory and History*, an account of Whitman's postwar writing. Martin is the Walter G. Friedrich Professor of American Literature at Valparaiso University.



**Mark Danielson** (BA-70), Thornton), published his fourth novel, *Writer's Block*, a suspenseful crime novel that introduces Fort Worth homicide detective Maxx Watts. Mark is a pilot for FedEx.



**Deirdre (White) Jones** (BA-95), Greeley, has created Elderbooks, read-aloud picture books for the elderly. Elderbooks is an activity that is both familiar and repetitive, two important elements for Alzheimer's and dementia patients. Deirdre's first book, *Something About That Smile*, is the story of two childhood friends who are reunited at a care facility late in life. The second book, *The Umbrella Man*, is a metaphorical look at how an elderly man takes on life's storms. Committed to finding a cure, Deirdre donates 10 percent of every picture book purchased to the Alzheimer's Association.



*I Must Survive*, a novel written by **Harry Simpson** (BS-68), Winter Haven, Fla., is the story of a lone survivor of a brutal attack on a U.S. patrol boat during the Vietnam War. Throughout Harry's life, he experienced his own forms of survival — polio, cancer, a spinal blockage and blood clots. He now enjoys retirement with his pets and friends after a 39-year career in finance.



**Tom Sturm** (BA-91), Easthampton, Mass., is a journalist at a weekly newspaper and monthly news/arts magazine in western Massachusetts. He has written two novels, three feature-length screenplays and approximately 200 rock/pop songs. *Samantha Smart: Time Traveler*, Tom's most recent book, is a young adult novel that follows the adventures of an 11-year-old Brooklyn girl through time.

Authors are invited to contribute to Book Notes c/o Northern Vision Class Notes. Entries are limited to books published within the last year. Submit book covers electronically, 300 dpi or greater.

## A MOTHER'S JOURNEY WITH SON BORN WITH HALF HIS HEART

**Amanda Rose Adams** (BA-98) raises awareness of congenital heart disease, the world's most common and lethal birth defect, through an emotionally powerful personal story. Five months into her pregnancy, Adams learned her baby was missing half of his heart. She and her husband, Jim, were forced to choose between terminating the pregnancy or embracing uncertainty. *Heart Warriors: A Family Faces Congenital Heart Disease* follows Adams through the 12 surgeries it takes to keep Liam alive while they face an uncertain future. She deals with the reality of having a child with congenital heart disease and the struggles of raising her younger daughter while her son fights for his life. Adams has since become an advocate, speaking before the Colorado Legislature and helping spearhead new screening studies for heart patients. She has also formed two congenital heart disease nonprofit organizations, organized medical conferences for Hypoplastic Right Hearts, attended medical advisory board meetings and national chapter meetings for the Children's Heart Foundation, and chaired the Congenital Heart Walk in Colorado. The book also includes resources for parents and families in similar situations. The story is about hope, Adams says. "If this book shows one family that they are not alone, or convinces one nurse how important she really is, or steers one medical student to pediatric cardiology, then it was worth it," she says in an online video promoting her book.



## NEW LIFE IN A ONCE SILENT WORLD

**Alyson (Stump) Raphael** (BS-91) lived in a silent world before receiving a cochlear implant at the age of 30 after the birth of her second son.

Raphael's book, *Turning a Deaf Ear*, shares the ups and downs of "new life" in a foreign, and very loud world. Prior to the surgery,

Raphael was considered "profoundly deaf." Afterwards, her hearing status was raised to "hard of hearing."

"A multitude of sounds assaulted me — it was indescribable," Raphael says. "Water rushing out of a faucet into a bathtub is still something I can't stand."

The sweet sound of birds chirping and music — especially the flute — are the most soothing sounds, she says.

Ten years after the surgery, Raphael is able to adapt more quickly to the noises around her. Some people believe the transition after receiving the cochlear implant is similar to flipping a switch — a common misconception of the surgery. *Turning a Deaf Ear* disproves that theory in more ways than one.

"The process is emotional and arduous," Raphael says. "The book provides an opportunity for anyone who may have full hearing and/or sight to truly understand what it is like to have such a disability and perhaps realize how wrong preconceived notions just might be."

—Katie Owston, junior, Journalism major



Online: For more Book Notes visit [www.unco/northernvision](http://www.unco/northernvision)





### ALL THAT JAZZ

Known as the Viscounts at CSC, the 17-piece big band was formed in 1958 by senior music major Joe Wiegardt and supported by faculty member William Gower. The band consisted of volunteer students — music and non-music majors alike — who performed at assemblies, dances and social events. A member of the band for four years, Gary Browning writes about the band's accomplishments and efforts to reunite. A Viscount CD has already been recorded.



Online: Browning provides details on how to get a copy in his column posted at [www.unco.edu/northernvision](http://www.unco.edu/northernvision)

## Memories of Crossing Hi Bridge, Sans Beanie, with Presidential Bailout

My first experience with Hi Bridge came almost 50 years ago. As a freshman, I had the audacity to cross the bridge without wearing my beanie. In those days, you see, all freshmen were issued blue-and-gold beanies, with “CSC” (Colorado State College) on them. The beanies had to be worn for the first two weeks of school, so everyone could tell who the freshmen were and harass us.

Most of us, especially if we lived off-campus and not in a dorm, refused to wear the stupid beanies.

Without my beanie, I attempted to walk across Hi Bridge and pass as an upperclassman. “Aren’t you a freshman?” The person who stopped me was, as I recall, about 6-foot-8 and weighed at least 350 pounds. He was very mean looking and probably a heavyweight wrestler or the defensive tackle on the football team — or maybe the whole defensive line on the football team.

I knew that if they caught a freshman without a beanie, it was a college custom to throw the student off of Hi Bridge. While the bridge was only about a foot off the ground, and probably the smallest in Colorado, I realized that the Big Mean Guy could lift me over his head before throwing — making my fall off the bridge about eight to 10 feet.

“N-n-n-o-o-o,” I answered, not managing to sound very old at all. I tried to walk. Mr. Large Mean Guy and his friends blocked the bridge. “Oh yeah?” he said. “If you’re a sophomore, you should know who the president of the college is. Who is he?”

Whew. Just the day before, I stumbled onto a protest behind the president’s house. I didn’t know why they were protesting, but I remembered his name, written on the stuffed dummy that they were burning in effigy from the football goalposts.

“W-William?” I said.

“W-William?” mocked the Large Mean guy. “W-William who?” He was laughing and you knew he was getting ready to lift me over his head and toss me off the bridge.

“William Ross!” I said, sure of myself, because you don’t forget your first protest, or the first effigy you see.

Large Mean Guy backed off. “OK,” he said discouragingly. “You can go ahead.”

And that’s how William Ross, that wonderful president of Colorado State College in 1962, saved my life.

—Mike Peters (BA-68)



## Trivia: Win a UNC Travel Mug

Tell us how Hi Bridge, pictured above, got its name to be entered into a drawing for a deluxe UNC travel mug. Send your answer by June 15 to [northernvision@unco.edu](mailto:northernvision@unco.edu).

Congratulations to the winners of the last issue’s trivia contest: M. Bradley Bruch, Jediah Cummins, Frank Hinman, Charles Mihulka and Patricia Pattison — who correctly answered that the light fixture pictured can be found on Gray Hall, home to the Bru-Inn for many years.



# In Memory

## 1930s

Lois E. Thayer (LC-36, BA-53)  
Elvera (Soderberg) Phillips (BA-37)  
Luella (Hampton) Bangeman (BA-38)

## 1940s

Jean (Pool Burg) Krest (LC-40)  
E. Paul Sumner (BA-41, MA-47)  
Vernon D. Anderson (BA-42)  
Helen (Wolf Hansen) Hauser (BA-42)  
Evelyanne (Fox) Sauer (BA-42)  
A. Frances Slinkman (MS-46)  
Ted Sutter (BA-46)  
Marylee (Hartman) Butler (BA-48)  
Ruth (Schrepel) Lindamood (BA-48)  
Grace A. Roetker (BA-48)  
LeRoy "Le" Triplett (BA-48, MA-49, EdD-62)  
Patricia (Arbuthnot) Towner (BA-49)  
William M. Dudley (BA-49)  
Robert F. Johnson (MA-49)

## 1950s

Lowell P. Hayes (MA-51)  
John J. Richter (MA-51)  
Sam H. Creswell (BA-52, MA-58)  
Eldon L. Gilmore (BA-52)  
Norma J. Harmon (BA-52)  
Frank L. Weinmeister (BA-52, MA-60)  
Barbara (Meyers) Billington (BA-53)  
Carol (Vincent) Givens (BA-53)  
Lawrence R. Kern (BA-53)  
Harold L. Goodale (BA-55)  
Neal A. Goldsmith (BA-57)  
William J. McFarland (MA-57)  
Randall J. Witt (MA-57)  
Max E. Boyer (MA-58)  
Helen (Rasmussen) Laffoon (BA-58)  
Robert J. "Jack" Warren (MA-58)  
Patricia (Kaspar) Coles (BA-59, MA-88)  
Ernest J. Demuth (MA-59)  
Harlo "Coach" Longmore (BA-59)  
Robert L. McMahon (MA-59)

## 1960s

Jon R. Swenson (MA-60)  
Eugene E. Carara (MA-61)  
Wesley V. Lauterbach (EdD-61)  
Marilyn (Harrison) Schlichting (BA-61)  
Charlie W. Hastings (BA-62, MA-72)  
Thomas S. Stillman (BA-62)  
Dorothy (Eubanks) Rhodes (BA-63)  
Harold R. Wilkinson (MA-63)  
Marion (McKee) Anderson (MA-64)  
Louis A. Bransford (MA-64, PhD-66)  
Janet (Allen) Jurgemeyer (BA-65)  
Claudia (Monaco) Poage (BA-65)  
Claire E. Portier (MA-65)  
Gillford E. Feis (MA-66)  
Robert W. Hussey (EdD-66)  
William E. "Pinger" Pings (BA-66)  
Tylene (Horn) Schmidt (MA-66)  
Sherrilu (Hagan) Smith (BA-66)  
Joy (Troom) Wood (BA-66)  
Walter E. Machin Jr. (BA-67)  
Eldon E. Moore (MA-68)  
LeRoy G. Moore (EdD-68)  
Gary T. Schank (BA-68, MA-69)  
Georgine (Karakusis) Dickens (BA-69)  
John D. Chase (BA-69)  
Kay M. Mirich (MA-69)

## 1970s

Ellwyn E. Cochran (MA-70)  
Ouida L. Guthrie (EdD-70)  
Frances La Bue (BA-70, MA-72)  
Donald O. Lomen (EdD-70)  
Keith F. Ester (MA-71)  
Marion (Eliason) Becker (MA-73)  
Carol L. Crowe (BA-73)  
Kenneth L. Hodges (BA-73, MA-74)  
Norman L. Smith (MA-73)  
Daniel V. Tyler (BA-73)  
Shirley (Sims) Wilson (BA-73)  
Stephen M. Cormey (BA-74)  
Junith (Griffith) Fischer (BA-74, MA-77)  
Carol L. Luark (BS-74)  
Jon D. Harris (MA-77)  
Lynn (Nickels) Aldrin (BA-78, MA-82)  
Robert L. Stephenson (EdD-78)  
Colleen J. Berg (MA-79)  
Albion W. Budney, Sr. (MA-79)  
Jeanne T. Higgins (MA-79)  
Lynn M. Kuckelman (MA-79)

## 1980s

Cynthia A. Beck (MA-80)  
David W. Rich (EdD-80)  
Daniel S. Linegar (MS-81)  
Virginia L. McLaughlin (MA-81)  
William "Bill" Morris (BS-81)  
William B. Rodie (MA-81)  
Barbara (Bumgarner) Villiotti (BME-81)  
Caroline N. Danly (BA-83)  
Maureen B. Morgan (MA-83)  
Alfonso F. Taylor (MA-88)  
Robert W. Ziegler (MA-88)

## 1990s

Kirsten (Stevens) Herring (BA-90)  
Nancy J. Michie (MA-91)  
Victoria L. Sweet (BS-92)  
Kathleen W. Potter (MA-97)  
Matthew S. Neumann (BA-98, MA-01)  
Adam J. Burton (BA-99)

## 2000s

Clint A. Miller (BS-05)

## Tributes

Philanthropist and community advocate **Julianne (Fischer) Haefeli** (MA-54) passed away in March. A staunch supporter of the university and a former president of the UNC Alumni Association, Julianne also served as chairwoman/president of many organizations, such as United Way of Weld County, the Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County and the Colorado State Board of Housing. She was affiliated and supported North Colorado Medical Center, Aims Community College, Greeley-Evans School District 6, Union Colony Civic Center, the Boys Club, A Woman's Place and numerous other organizations. Among Julianne's many recognitions and awards are the Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice Papal Medal from Pope Paul VI and an honorary doctorate from UNC in 1996.

**Robert "Bob" Johnson** (BA-51, MA-52), former Mathematics professor and assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education at UNC, passed away in March. He joined the faculty in 1960, retiring as professor emeritus in 1984. His career continued as a financial advisor with UBS Financial Services Inc. for 25 years. He was president of the UNC Foundation Board of Directors, Kiwanis Club, Weld County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics and Colorado Schoolmasters and served on numerous community boards. He hosted the UNC Summer Symphonic Band summer concerts and founded Kream of the Krop, a local swing band.

**Alice "Nita" Lewis**, former chair of Early Childhood Studies at UNC, passed away in November. Nita's career at UNC began in 1959 and she retired as emeritus faculty in 1982. Her scholarly achievements included serving as senior author in the department of early childhood for Houghton Mifflin, where she authored 14 books.

**Norman "Ted" Oppelt** (MA-55), former professor and dean of students at UNC, passed away in November. During his long career at UNC, he coached football and tennis and taught classes in psychology and higher education administration. He served as UNC's dean of men, dean of students, assistant to the president and chair of the College Student Personnel Administration graduate program. He retired as professor emeritus in 1987. Memorial gifts may be made to the Ted Oppelt Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership Award at the UNC Foundation.

**Junius "Jay" W. Peake**, former professor in the Monfort College of Business, passed away in January. Following a distinguished career on Wall Street, Jay taught finance at UNC for 14 years. He served as the first Monfort executive professor and retired professor emeritus in 2006. Memorial gifts may be made to the Jay and Diane Peake Business-Women-Hoops Scholarship at the UNC Foundation.

**Tony M. Rossi** (MA-49), former professor of Health and Physical Education at UNC, passed away in October. He implemented one of the first athletic training programs in the country. During his 34-year career at UNC, he served as athletic trainer for all college

sports. He was named Coach of the Year and was inducted into both the UNC Hall of Fame and the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame. He retired as professor emeritus in 1983. Memorial gifts may be made to the Tony Rossi Kinesiology and Physical Education Scholarship at the UNC Foundation.

**Daniel W. Rowley**, professor of management at UNC, passed away in November. He joined the university in 1983 and served as chair of the Management department and Wells Fargo Chair at the Monfort College of Business. He was named Monfort College Scholar of the Year, UNC Scholar of the Year, and received the A.M. and Jo Winchester Distinguished Scholar Award in 2004.

**Claude M. Schmitz** (BA-53, MA-54), former professor and chair of the Voice department at UNC, passed away in October. Claude was the founder of the Choral-Aires, a singing group that toured in the United States and Asia in the 1950s as ambassadors for the college music program. He also founded UNC's Opera Theatre program and served as its director for nearly 30 years. Claude was named Outstanding Faculty Member in 1958 and retired as professor emeritus in 1983. Memorial gifts may be made to the Claude and Anna Schmitz Memorial Voice Scholarship at the UNC Foundation.

**Mortimer P. Stern**, former professor of Journalism at UNC, passed away in September. His career began as a reporter for *The Arkansas Gazette* and *The Denver Post*, where he rose up the ladder as the youngest managing editor in the Post's history. He served in the journalism departments at the University of Alabama, CU-Boulder and Florida International University before coming to UNC in 1985. Emeritus faculty status was granted in 1990.

**Leslie Trowbridge**, former professor of Science and Science Education passed away in February. Following service in World War II as a meteorologist, he began a 50-year teaching career in Wisconsin and Michigan that led him to UNC in 1962. He received UNC's Distinguished Scholar Award in 1979 and retired as Professor Emeritus in 1990. Trowbridge authored 16 science and meteorology books that were used by more than two million students in the United States. Memorial gifts may be made in Trowbridge's name to the UNC Foundation.

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

# Then AND NOW

## WELCOME, STUDENTS

According to archived materials in Michener Library, half of the members of the first graduating class in 1891 were from the Greeley area. Of the other six, two came from Larimer County, two were from what are now Boulder County ghost towns – Caribou and Valmont – one hailed from Carbondale and one traveled all the way from Sapinero, an unincorporated community in Gunnison County.

Professor William Bybee, who graduated in 1891, noted in “Sketch of the Class of ‘91” (published in the January 1896 edition of *The Crucible* student journal) that half of the class had teaching experience when they enrolled and the other half had little or no experience. He wrote that they all worked as teachers after graduating from what was then the State Normal School.

At the 122nd spring commencement this year, more than 1,100 students received bachelor’s degrees in more than 100 programs of study and more than 350 received graduate degrees in more than 50 programs of study. Combined, the graduates represent 44 of the 64 counties in Colorado, 39 states and 26 foreign countries.

Interestingly, Bybee, seated with arms crossed in the front row of the 1891 class photo, offered these words of hope for what is now UNC:

*May our Alma Mater prosper with increasing years, realizing to the fullest the ideals of her youth for truly “Achievement is pioneered by ideals.”*



Read Bybee’s article in its entirety online at [www.unco.edu/nothernvision](http://www.unco.edu/nothernvision)

For more “Then and Now” photos, visit [www.unco.edu/news](http://www.unco.edu/news)



First graduating class, 1891

## Undergraduate commencement, now



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