

# Northern

## VISION

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO  
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

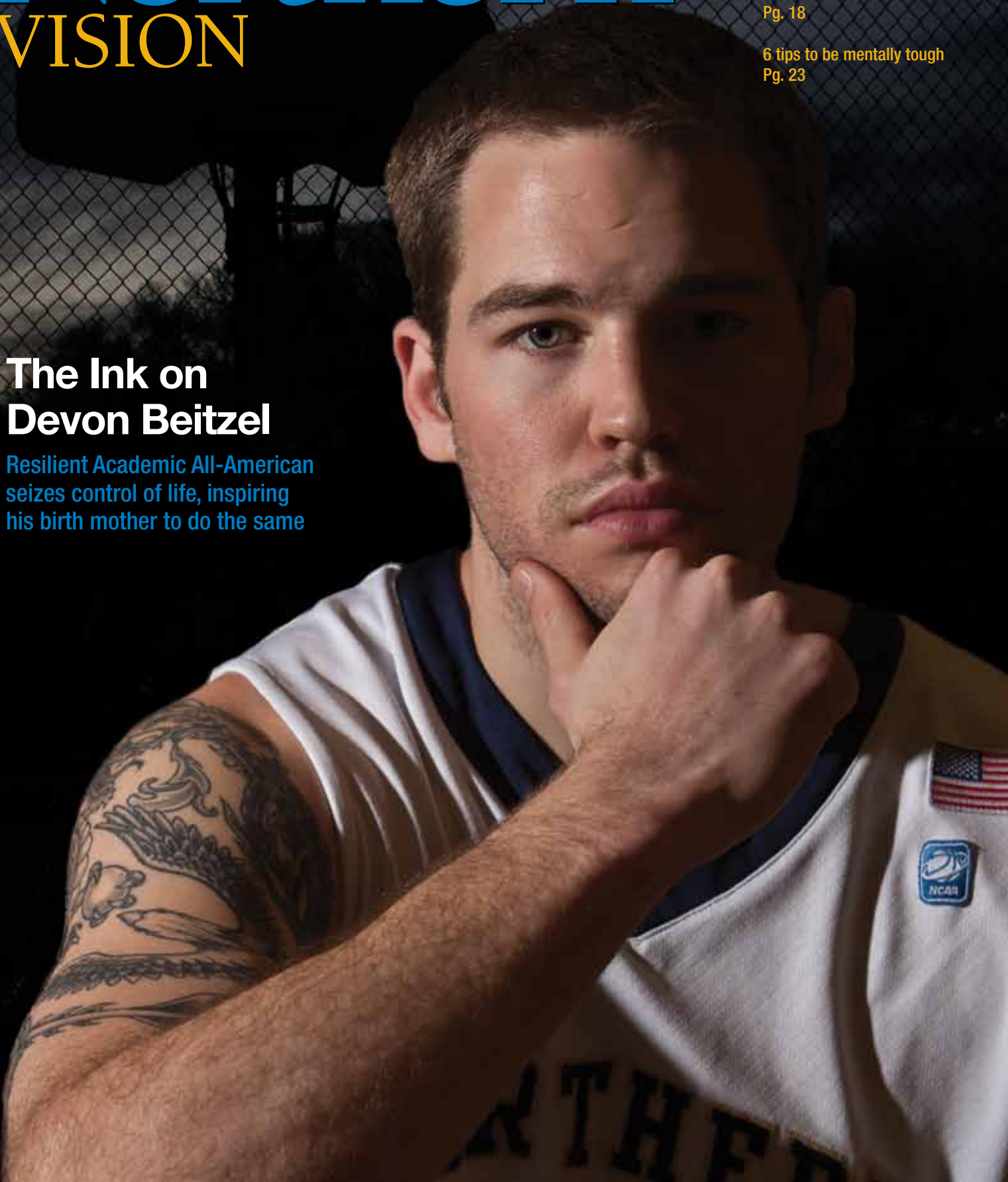
SPRING/SUMMER 2011  
'The big joke is I got smarter  
when they took out my brain'  
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Bears dance in the NCAA  
Tournament  
Pg. 18

6 tips to be mentally tough  
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## The Ink on Devon Beitzel

Resilient Academic All-American  
seizes control of life, inspiring  
his birth mother to do the same



**PUBLISHER**

Chuck Leonhardt, Vice President,  
University Relations

**EDITOR**

Nate Haas (MS-04), Director,  
Public Relations

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Gary Dutmers, Senior Writer/  
Editor, Public Relations

**ART DIRECTION/DESIGN**

Gretchen Kershner,  
Graphic Designer,  
University Relations

**ALUMNI/CLASS NOTES EDITOR**

Margie Meyer, Program Coordinator,  
Office of Development

**COPY EDITORS**

Misty Barnes, Janis Rizzuto

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Chris Casey, Dan England, Lynn  
Klyde-Silverstein, Dana O'Neil,  
Anne Cumming Rice, Jon Rizzi

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Stephanie Burchett, Ben Depp,  
Barry Gutierrez, Todd Langley,  
Barry LaPoint, Chip Litherland,  
Jim Rydbom

**NORTHERN VISION**

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Gloria Reynolds

**EDITORIAL OFFICE**

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

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**ROARING TO LIFE:** It took artist Armando Silva (BA-10) about 280 hours between Nov. 1 and Jan. 14 to complete this 50-foot wide by 20-foot tall mural in the Campus Recreation Center. “I love working in large formats,” Silva says. “But what I love even more is doing something like this in a place where people aren’t expecting to see art.” For photos showing the project’s progression, visit [www.flickr.com/photos/unco-media](http://www.flickr.com/photos/unco-media)

## ON THE COVER



**13** Devon Beitzel says the tattoo on his right arm honors his birth parents and the family that helped raise him. Half of the tattoo features a dragon, which represents strength and courage impressed upon him by his birth parents. The other half, a phoenix, signifies the second chance he received from his extended family. *Photo illustration by Barry LaPoint*

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

**Reader Survey: Reflect Interests**

Results of a Northern Vision survey reveal that you want relevant stories, reflecting broad interests, reminiscent of your college experience. In no order, you ranked among the must-read topics: history, traditions, campus facilities, alumni events, cultural events, onstage performances, education issues, student research and university news. One reader reminded us that the magazine needs to contain “great writing” with “journalistic excellence” in mind. Do you agree with the results? What do you want to see in Northern Vision? Tell us by e-mailing [northernvision@unco.edu](mailto:northernvision@unco.edu). Read the survey at: [www.uncalumni.org/vision](http://www.uncalumni.org/vision)

— Nate Haas (MS-04)

## Bringing the University’s Vision Into Focus

I’m inspired every day I come to work.

Our university community of students, faculty, staff and alumni changes lives.

Just flip through the magazine to see what I mean:

- The work by Professor Stephen Mackessy and his research team, which includes undergraduate students, shows promise in leading to a cancer treatment (Pg. 3).
- While studying abroad in Ghana, junior Rachel Rose Jackson co-founded a nonprofit that has provided education and health care to disadvantaged women and children who live there (Pg. 4).
- Alumni working in Haiti have served a number of vital roles, including teaching schoolchildren, volunteering in orphanages and providing medical care in the aftermath of last year’s earthquake (Pg. 8-12).

I could go on.

These transformative stories of lifelong learning reflect our shared vision of the university as an exemplary teaching and learning community, where academic programs, research and community intersect to serve students.

To achieve this vision—to be an exemplary teaching and learning community—we are focusing our time, energy and resources on three priorities:

- Sustaining UNC’s ability to give students the opportunity for transformative education at a specialized research university as we are now;
- Cultivating academic programs that have both high quality and great potential to exemplify the teaching and learning community we want to be;
- Developing at the heart of our campus, around the University Center, a physical manifestation of the exemplary teaching and learning community we want to be by creating a 21st century learning laboratory.

As we work to support our vision, we must be deliberate in operating in fiscally sustainable ways. The new business model for higher education, marked by fewer resources from a cash-strapped state overwhelmed by budget demands, represents a profound and permanent change.

What does this change mean to UNC?

We’ve developed a five-year financial plan that’s shaping the way we operate. Based on our planning, we’ve been given greater flexibility by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to set resident undergraduate tuition for the next two years.

Increased investments in financial aid to students and new and existing support from charitable gifts from alumni and friends will ameliorate tuition increases. We tailor financial aid packages by applying tuition discounts from academic scholarships that are awarded and financial aid based on the individual’s expected family contribution.

To address state funding declines (as of March, projected to be \$7.8 million for UNC in 2011–12), we’ve employed seven strategies, with campus input, to help identify \$5 million in permanent cost savings over the next three years. Among them, we’re placing a temporary freeze on hiring non-faculty positions over \$25,000; taking a timeout on technology, equipment, capital and renovation expenditures not approved through the university’s central budget process; assessing critically all travel expenses; and developing rank-ordered fund-raising priorities.

Together, we are working toward our shared vision — an exemplary teaching and learning community.

I can’t help being inspired along the way.

*Kay Norton is president of UNC.*



### Ask the President

Have a question about the university you’d 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*.

## Professor Studies Venom to Treat Cancer

Biological Sciences Professor Stephen Mackessy, right, and his research team, which includes students, are looking for ways that snake venom might be used to fight cancer.

Researchers extract venom from harmless rear-fanged snakes and work to isolate individual elements of the venom that attack cancer, without hurting normal cells. Mackessy’s lab is one of only a few worldwide conducting such analysis.

“Ideally, we’d like to have something that will either minimize or eliminate cancer cell growth in the body,” Mackessy told CBS Denver (see his coverage along with other media coverage of UNC at [www.uncalumni.org/vision](http://www.uncalumni.org/vision)).

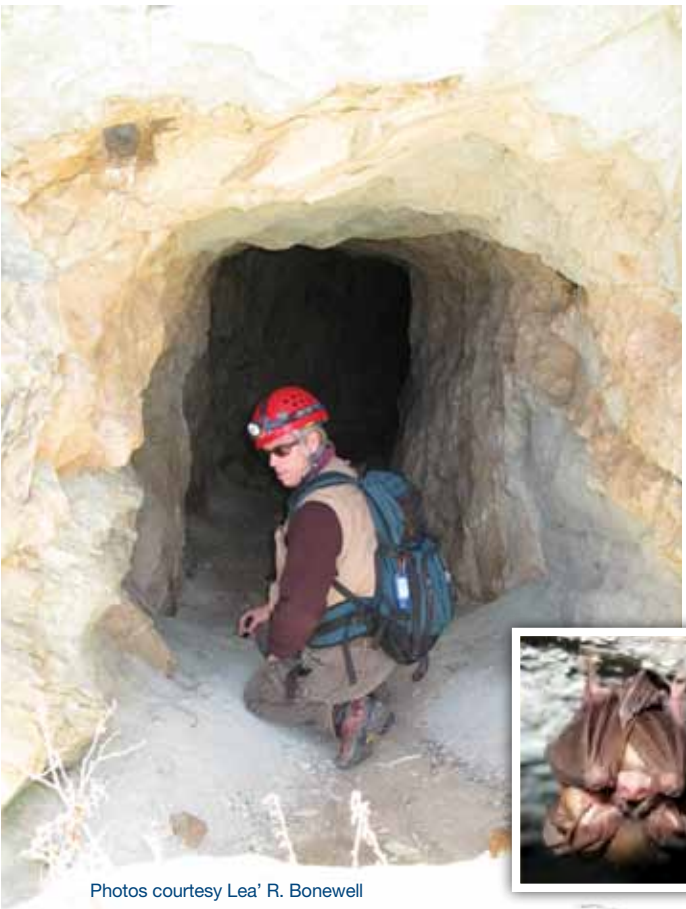
Mackessy and his team are focusing on attacking three different types of cancer: skin, colon and breast cancer.

The lab recently received \$50,000 from the Colorado Office of Economic Development to help continue the research. The funding provides support for undergraduate and graduate students to work on the project.



Photo by Stephanie Burchett

## Grad Student’s Research Identifies Bat Hibernation Sites in Abandoned Mines



Photos courtesy Lea’ R. Bonewell

UNC doctoral student Mark Hayes, left, completed a multiyear study that helps identify attributes of abandoned mines that attract a species of bats in southwest Colorado.

Hayes examined nine years’ worth of data and conducted fieldwork in the mines to co-author the most thorough article to date on hibernation sites of Townsend’s big-eared bats, a species of conservation concern. The article appeared in the January edition of the *Journal of Wildlife Management*.

The research is being used by wildlife managers to inform them about abandoned sites that should be considered in preserving winter habitats for the species. The research recommends conducting winter surveys of abandoned mines before deciding on closures or reclamations.



## Of Note ...

**Robin Macaluso**, assistant professor of Chemistry, earned a \$460,000 award from the National Science Foundation to enhance research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. They will work with Macaluso and researchers at national laboratories to better understand magnetism and superconductivity in intermetallic compounds.

Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences **Mark Thomas** was one of 214 researchers worldwide to earn a \$60,000 award from The Brain and Behavior Research Fund of the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression. The grant will help Thomas test whether dopamine regulates memory, which is disrupted in schizophrenia, by altering rhythms of neurons in the prefrontal cortex.

The Colorado Health Foundation awarded a grant to the School of Nursing to create a community partnership to increase the number of health care professionals who care for the state’s underserved populations. The \$209,044 award, managed by project director and Professor of Nursing **Vicki Wilson**, is augmented by a \$27,000 grant funded by the North Colorado Medical Center Inc.

Library faculty **Jay Trask** and **Kay Lowell** were awarded a \$3,500 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for an initiative to develop an environmental monitoring program for UNC’s archival, rare books and special collections, including the James A. Michener Special Collection.

Four grants totaling \$3.5 million (three managed by UNC’s Distance Opportunities for Interpreter Training Center and the fourth by Assistant Professor of Human Rehabilitation **Jill Bezyak**) from the U.S. Department of Education will focus on educational opportunities and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities and for individuals who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

There's An App For That ...



**For young readers:** iRime allows users to select word beginnings and endings to create any single-syllable word in the English language. The app verifies whether the word is real by reading aloud the chosen combination (profanity excluded). “iRime focuses on the way English works, which is in chunks,” says app developer James Erikson, assistant professor of Reading Education. <http://irime.blogspot.com>

**For saving lives:** Designed with his teenage son in mind, Marketing graduate Jonathan Young (BS-90) came up with an idea to disable texting functions on cellphones while driving. Using GPS technology, Textecution detects when vehicles are traveling over 10 mph and then prevents texting. [www.textecution.com](http://www.textecution.com)



Under development by UNC students, who’ve entered these concepts for Windows phone apps into a Microsoft competition ...



**For visually impaired:** Fetch, a “virtual seeing eye phone app,” uses voice activation to connect with real-time maps online. It was a finalist in the Monfort College of Business Entrepreneurial Challenge this year. Developers: Sterling Englehard, Bryson Dunn, Arlis Hansberry and Anthony Vergatos. [www.vimeo.com/16870448](http://www.vimeo.com/16870448)

**For saving on your electric bill:** Monitor the amount of electricity used in the household and identify high-use areas with the web and PC app iGcc ecoWatcher. Developers: Josh Leiker and Lyles Armour Jr. [www.youtube.com/user/LAjr11](http://www.youtube.com/user/LAjr11)

**For not leaving guests waiting:** Ding Dong Dock connects to the household’s doorbell and notifies the owner whenever the doorbell rings. Developers: Ashley Cooper, Joe LaBonde, Corey Blakeborough and Khalifa Al-Binali. [www.youtube.com/user/josephlabonde](http://www.youtube.com/user/josephlabonde)

**For safer socializing:** Through a simple messaging system, DD.Me connects people in need of rides with local designated driving agencies. Developers: Abdullah Alrubeih, Adam Sterkowicz, Brad Perkins, Ryan Morris and Kalid Aletai. [www.youtube.com/user/adamsterk](http://www.youtube.com/user/adamsterk)

**For food donations:** Food Finder assists communities in need of food donations by connecting local food centers with food donations from small businesses. Developers: Andrew Glanzer, John Stevens, Derek Laughman, Jeremy Hufman and Hamad Al-Maneer. (No website)



*“We try to make it a complete circle. We collaborate with the women to create a life they would hope for. Then, they work with other women to create a life they would hope for.”*

—As told to the Greeley Tribune by UNC junior Rachel Rose Jackson, one of three college students who received a national service award for co-founding a nonprofit organization while studying abroad. To date, the Kayayei Association has provided education to more than 500 Ghanaian women and children, housing, and medical treatment to more than 150 who otherwise wouldn’t have received care.

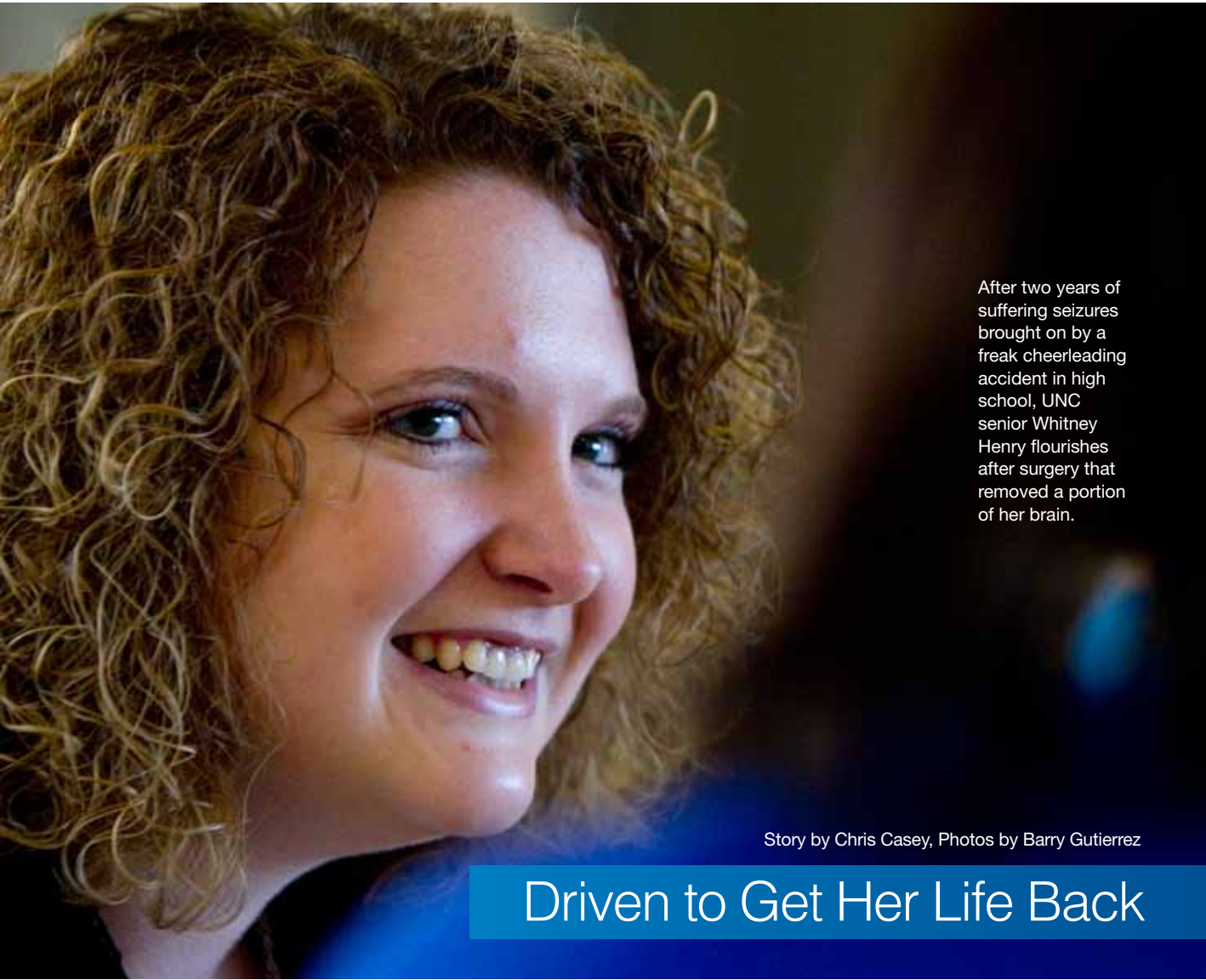
5 Tips to Get Support for Your Invention

By Adam Wickam (BS-06)

- 1. Get involved in entrepreneurial community groups.
  - Seek out doers who have succeeded.
  - Avoid people looking to charge for advice — they attend group meetings looking for work, not to share their experience.
- 2. Share your vision through presentations and conversations with experts, seek their advice and listen.
- 3. Request meetings and pay for their meal or coffee.
  - Ask their opinion on your concept. If turned down repeatedly and they understand your concept, question your concept.
  - Take notes, pay attention and follow up.
  - Send an e-mail explaining what you learned, how you will apply their advice and thanking them for their time.
- 4. As the business progresses, keep them informed.
  - Send e-mail updates for accomplished milestones.
  - Hold meetings, but keep them under one hour.
  - Prepare for the meetings with questions and “issues.”
- 5. Gather many advisers from various parts of business.
  - Bring them together to meet and discuss your project.
  - Respect their time and attention.
  - Listen. Listen. Listen.

Who knows, if they believe in you and your project, you may accidentally build your management team.

—Adam Wickam earned a third-place award of \$3,000 in the start-up ventures category of the Monfort College of Business Entrepreneurial Challenge in March. He invested 18 months and \$30,000 into 12 prototypes before launching Flex-fire, a game rifle for the Nintendo Wii.



After two years of suffering seizures brought on by a freak cheerleading accident in high school, UNC senior Whitney Henry flourishes after surgery that removed a portion of her brain.

Story by Chris Casey, Photos by Barry Gutierrez

Driven to Get Her Life Back

Whitney Henry’s life was rolling along at 15 years old. She was ahead on credits and on track for early graduation. She made the cheerleading team, even though she didn’t expect to. And she was close to getting her driver’s license.

Then came a July day at Fossil Ridge High School cheerleading camp in Fort Collins. A freshman girl launched into the air and Henry was among the girls in spotting formation.

“She just kind of free fell,” Henry recalls. “The coaches weren’t in position to spot — they were on the other side of the gym.”

The back of the girl’s head crashed into Henry’s upper lip, knocking back her two front teeth.

Visits to the dentist and pediatrician followed the accident, with two porcelain veneers and braces put back on. The pediatrician said it appeared to be a mild concussion. Henry, now 20 and a UNC senior, rejoined the cheer team but sat out the stunts.

Instead of cheerleading, Henry had orginially wanted to play football her junior year, but her mom didn’t want her to.

“Now she wishes I did,” Henry says.

On Dec. 6, 2006, she suffered the first of what would be hundreds of seizures. They were nonconvulsive, complex-partial seizures, and they turned Henry’s life upside down.

“I felt like a crazy person. I went, ‘Mom, something is not right,’ ” Henry says. “We went through like six neurologists.”

So much for driving. So much for sweet 16.

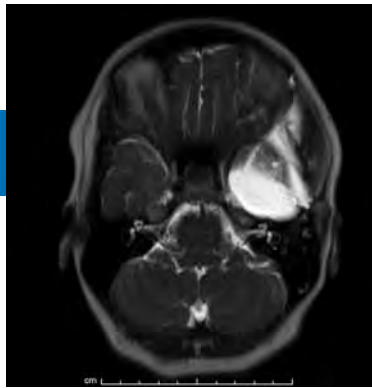
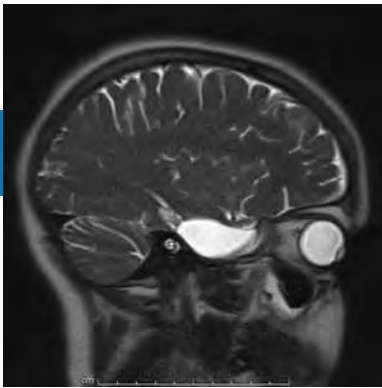
Even though she frequently felt out of sorts — the seizures caused tingling, numbness and twitching, while her mental state went dreamlike — Henry put her schoolwork in overdrive. She added extra classes and managed to graduate from high school a year early.

Henry was sure she had epilepsy, but the specialists weren’t convinced. Diagnoses ranged from migraines to psychotic symptoms to suppressed memories.



More UNC news at [www.unco.edu/news](http://www.unco.edu/news)

Scans courtesy of The Children's Hospital



**TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY:** The scans above illuminate Henry's right hippocampus, which was hardening and was causing disruptions leading to frequent seizures for two years before surgery to remove it on Nov. 12, 2008. On campus, right, Henry is a dedicated student and will graduate at age 20.



**GETTING AROUND:** Driving is "the one freedom I appreciate the most," says Henry, framed here in her side mirror while behind the wheel of her car.

And her junior year of high school was marked by confusion about her behavior.

"One time I had four seizures in one day," Henry recalls. "They kicked me out of school that day. They said I was a distraction to the class. They called my mom and said, 'We think she might be high.'"

Finishing high school early was "more an effort to get out of school to be able to do my own thing."

But before that could happen, Henry needed to figure out what caused the seizures and how to make them stop. To keep her mind distracted from her mysterious seizures, she began taking classes at Front Range Community College in Fort Collins.

*"The big joke is I got smarter when they took out my brain."*

"Those two years [last year of high school, first year of college] were filled with different doctors and different diagnoses, and finally we got to the right doctor," she says.

She received the proper diagnosis from Pramote Laoprasert, MD, a clinical neurophysiologist in Denver. Henry told him that none of the 13 medications prescribed up to that point had worked. Laoprasert explained that she had suffered a traumatic brain injury — far worse than a concussion.

He pulled her off her medication and studied a string of her seizures before pinpointing her right hippocampus, a seahorse-shaped portion of the brain behind the eyes. It aids in long-term memory and spatial navigation.

Henry's case was odd in that she felt tingling and numbness on her right side, and it was the right hippocampus that was damaged.

Normally, damage to one side of the brain manifests in physical symptoms on the opposite side of the body.

Also unusual was the way she emerged from surgery, which was performed by Michael Handler, MD, at The Children's Hospital in Denver. On the morning of Nov. 12, 2008, just before she had a pingpong ball-sized portion of her brain removed, Henry experienced her last seizure.

Because of her traumatic brain injury, Henry's right hippocampus had developed sclerosis, or started to harden. Neural signals couldn't transmit through the tissue; rather, they would essentially bounce off the hippocampus.

"I'm one of the first kids they've done the surgery on to come through without deficits," Henry says. "I should have lost a fourth to an eighth of vision in my right eye. They don't know why, but I should have lost it. The deficits could have been memory loss, word finding, but nothing [happened]."

In fact, Henry's IQ, memory and attention span all increased post-surgery. "The big joke is I got smarter when they took out my brain," she says with a chuckle.

Two weeks later, she passed four finals in the online classes she was taking at UNC that fall. She started attending classes on campus in spring 2009 and graduates this spring with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Sociology.

"I was originally a nursing major, but because of my immune system I'd never make it through clinicals," she says, noting a weakened immune system is a side effect of the surgery. "I would be sick all the time."

In September, she accidentally hit her head on the trunk lid of her car. Because of her history, she doesn't recover as easily as she should from a knock on the head. The trunk mishap left her with brief memory problems and mood fluctuations.

"One classroom at UNC didn't affect me prior to the surgery, but afterward I would get migraines there — probably from the lights," she says. "I had to switch sections [of the class]."

She currently suffers a couple migraines a month, and her head — home to three titanium plates — sets off airport security wands.

She's thankful to at last be able to drive, after spending high school and her first two years of college being shuttled everywhere by her parents.

"I drive everywhere now. It's the one freedom I appreciate the most," Henry says.


Henry is applying to graduate programs in psychology and plans to become a counselor before returning to school for a Ph.D. In February, she got a job working on a youth counseling hot line called the HopeLine. It helps teens and young adults with problems in their lives — from relationships to drugs to general stress.

Henry's ultimate goal is to teach psychology at the college level.

The Children's Hospital recruited her for a testimonial video about her experience. She also has mentored child patients who face brain surgery.

"In cases like mine, they call me, and I can talk to the kiddos having surgery," Henry says. "I let them know that it's scary, but it's going to be OK." **NV**

—Chris Casey is a Greeley journalist who's worked in newsrooms in Colorado, Oregon and Minnesota.

 **Video:** Henry in her own words at [www.uncalumni.org/vision](http://www.uncalumni.org/vision)

## Q&A: Modeling Traumatic Brain Injuries

UNC Math Professor Igor Szczyrba and fellow researchers are working with football helmet manufacturer Riddell and computer chip maker Intel to use helmet sensor-collected data and mathematics/computer modeling to predict the kinds of hits that cause injury.



**NV: How did you become interested in this research?**

Szczyrba: I read an article about using mathematics to model how the human brain behaves in a traumatic situation. With my experience in mathematics and physics, and also some exposure with computers and programming, I thought I could try to solve those equations, even more complicated ones, and apply that toward brain-injury modeling.

**NV: How does mathematical modeling help you analyze brain injury?**

Szczyrba: Imagine football players, where one is sandwiched by defenders. He gets hit from one side and then the other. A preliminary simulation — published in a reviewed paper — said that it is more dangerous because the movement of the brain matter is more rapid. Now the point is to prove it experimentally. With sensors in the helmet (Riddell has provided them to some pro football players), you take the data from the helmet and put it in the mathematical model.

**NV: What is your main goal from this research?**

Szczyrba: Overall, I want to help people get fewer injuries, to help players have fewer injuries and possibly help doctors in designing treatment methods. The further goal is, with this data, we'll understand better which types of head movements are really leading to concussions or even more dangerous brain injuries.

**NV: Would helmet manufacturers be able to apply what they've learned to head protection design for other sports?**

Szczyrba: Bicyclists, skiers, snowboarders — for any of them it might help to redesign the helmets to be a little better. Maybe this research can help to slightly redesign military helmets, which will also mitigate the possibility of traumatic brain injury. It's not only helmets. It's designing roller coasters, car interiors — a lot of things. I don't say we'll do all of that, but there are extremely broad applications.

**NV: Do you have a personal attachment, such as knowing someone who has been injured skiing?**

Szczyrba: My son and I have fallen a couple times skiing on difficult slopes. Were it not for our helmets, we probably would have been injured.

**NV: But you don't want to change the nature of the way these sports are played?**

Szczyrba: I don't want to say you can't ski black diamonds, on moguls or between trees. Our goal is to keep doing what we do now, just make it safer. So maybe we'll be able to help the football community say, "OK, guys, we modified the rules. We took out the most dangerous part, but we didn't change the atmosphere of the game because football must be a full-contact sport."

Read the full-length Q&A at: [www.uncalumni.org/vision](http://www.uncalumni.org/vision)

*Globetrotting UNC Grad Teaches in the Indefatigable Country as She Sets Her Sights on International Career*

# ANSWERING THE CALL TO HAITI

Stories by Dan England  
Photos by Ben Depp

When people ask Michelle Strickler why she's teaching in Haiti, she thinks about the fifth grade.

That's when Strickler met Chris Knab. A chance meeting with her fifth-grade teacher in a grocery store a day before she left for Haiti helped calm those last few doubts. If she saw her mentor, she knew fate was leading her in the right direction.

**SETTLING IN:** Michelle Strickler jump-started her international teaching career by student teaching in New Zealand — that was before taking a position as a first-grade teacher in Haiti (right). Her overseas experience has taught her that the 10 minutes of terror about moving to a new place are worth it in the long run. Below left: An outdoors enthusiast, Strickler hikes around the country frequently.

Video: Skype interview with Strickler at [www.uncalumni.org/vision](http://www.uncalumni.org/vision)



It was also in the fifth grade when her parents, Mary and Jeff Strickler, took her on her first big international trip.

“That’s what they spent money on me for,” she says of traveling to London, Africa and South America. “They really instilled from a young age that it was really important to have world knowledge.”

On their last night abroad, she remembers crying at the hotel when she learned they were going home the next day. She thought they would travel the world forever.

“Why stay in one country when there are hundreds out there to explore?” she says of her philosophy.



Before graduating from UNC (BA-10) last Decemeber, the Portland, Ore., native went to New Zealand for student teaching and had such a good experience there, she was ready to travel anywhere. It was beautiful, and she learned how to adapt to and even absorb a culture. There is now a piece of New Zealand that will always be with her.

Even though she believes going to college was a bigger adjustment, moving away taught her an important lesson: Those 10 minutes of terror you feel in any new place are worth the experience you get from being there.

It’s a lesson she applied when she got back from New Zealand and discovered a job in Haiti.



### CAN YOU COME IN A WEEK?

That was the question the director of the school in Haiti asked Strickler after a nearly three-hour phone interview. In the classroom, above, Strickler finds herself in familiar surroundings: speaking English to a class of 20.

### MIXING IT UP:

Strickler is enjoying a new hobby while in Haiti. She describes Capoeira as a mix of martial arts, Brazilian music and breakdancing.

The director of Haiti's Union School connected with the Northwest Evaluation Association. Strickler's father is the chief operating officer of the nonprofit, which helps educators form tailored plans for students. So when his organization made a pledge to Union School, the director bemoaned over a casual dinner with Strickler's parents while visiting Portland that she couldn't find a first-grade teacher.

"I thought of Michelle, but then it crossed my mind, do I really tell her about this job?" says her mother, Mary.

The drive back home from dinner gave her some time to think. She was always impressed with her daughter's older and mostly wiser soul. And one of the reasons they took their kids on those international trips was to build independence.

"I decided I couldn't NOT tell her," Mary says. "It's her life."

Strickler wasn't so sure about the job at first.

"I had just gotten back from New Zealand, and I wanted to see my friends who I hadn't seen in ages, and I wanted to live in Portland," she says.

But about a month later, her friends were gone, and she asked her father for the school director's e-mail. Haiti had been on her mind for a while, ever since the January 2010 earthquake killed tens of thousands and

destroyed whole parts of the country. Before leaving for New Zealand, she remembers talking with her mother over breakfast about ways they could help.

One long phone interview later — it lasted almost three hours — the director of the school offered her the job.

And could she come in a week?



Like her friends who supported her, Strickler wondered about Haiti, but she also saw an opportunity.

She needed two years' experience of teaching internationally and a master's degree to teach overseas in most cases. The school in Haiti was willing to overlook those requirements.

"I did consider how hard it was to live down there, and I knew that for a while it was going to take me a bit to really understand the country," she says, "and now I realize that it's going to take me the entire year."

But Haiti's struggles appealed to her as much as they worried her, at least at first. Teaching there was a way to get in and try to do some good.

As she discovered, it's not much different than teaching in the U.S. — she speaks English when she teaches her class of about 20 first-graders.



Strickler says that she teaches and lives in a bubble of sorts, away from the worst of what living in one of the poorest countries in the world can mean.

Even so, her mother visited the country for a week, shaking her head at her daughter's ability to overlook some major discomforts. Most of Port-au-Prince is a slum, Mary says, despite what her daughter says about it being a nice place to live.

"There are definitely sleepless nights," Mary says. "It is nerve-racking, but bless her heart, we admire her courage. I really don't think I could do what she's doing."

There were sleepless nights for both of them when four months into her stay, the bubble burst. Protestors rioted through the streets about the Nov. 28 election results, an election that many observers said appeared to be fixed.

That unrest meant Strickler was forced to stay in her apartment for a week. It's possible she could have left, and she would have, she said, had she run out of food or water, but she preferred to play it safe. She did run out of running water — she took her first "bucket shower" — but she had a filtration system for drinking water. She borrowed the water from her neighbors.

"I was only really seeing the positive side of it, the side I wanted to see," she says. "But seeing all the stuff that went on with elections, it really brought Haiti into a reality standpoint for me and gave me a lot to think about."

Strickler admitted that had she known there would be fallout from the elections, she may not have taken the job in the first place.

Then again, despite the chaos and even the danger, she believes there are a lot of positives to take away from Haiti. She tries to get out and enjoy the outdoors as much as she can, even hiking trails that are meant for the locals carrying food or water into Haiti's slums.



## Grad on Haiti: 'It Helped Me See Life in a New Way'

Amanda Jackson (BA-08) went to Haiti to help before the earthquake struck. Looking back, she's amazed at how much people helped her in her 2½ years there.

She worked with God's Littlest Angels Orphanage in Pétion-Ville. She also taught elementary, middle and high school students, all in the same day, at a nearby academy.

Her jobs took up practically all of her time. Observing the strong will of the Haitian people was enough to get her through every week, even replenish her faith.

"They helped me see life in a new way," she says. "I was amazed at how little the people had, yet how much joy they had."

Times only grew harder after the earthquake that struck her second year there. Jackson remembers the ground rolling under her feet, and she felt more confusion than fear: She had never been in an earthquake.

None of her students died, but many lost their homes, and all lost at least one relative or friend.

The school's affluent students left Haiti immediately. There was no money left to run the school for remaining students.

She never got a chance to say goodbye.

"The school was family for me," she says. "I went home from school one day as I did every other day. Little did I know I would never see half my students again."

At the orphanage, it was just as difficult. More than 150 were adopted after the attention on the earthquake. Her emotions were mixed. It was nice that they had finally found homes.

"But we had spent two years with some children and within days, we found out we may never see them again," she says. "To say goodbye so abruptly in these circumstances really took a toll."

It seems strange to say it, but a lot of good did come from the earthquake. Not only were those kids adopted, but Haiti and the orphanage both received numerous donations.

At press time, Jackson was back in Colorado with plans to find a teaching job in Florida. She wants to live there because Haiti is two hours away by plane.

"Even though I went through an earthquake, hurricanes and political protests," she says, "I will cherish my time in Haiti forever."

But the beauty does not amaze her as much as the constitution and overall sturdiness of the people of Haiti. Haiti can't catch a break, she says, and yet the people continue to smile and struggle and carry on with the hope that things will get better.

"The family units are absolutely there for each other," she says. "Family is the most important thing to them. It's family and God."



Don't get her wrong. She misses Portland. Facebook drives her crazy sometimes because it keeps her perhaps too connected to her friends and all that fun back home.

Even so, she has started to piece together a life of her own. In her apartment complex in Peguy Ville, just a few miles from her school in Pétion-Ville, there are 10 people mostly her age, and four of them are teachers at Union. The school's other teachers are a mix of Canadians, French, local Haitians and

a few Americans. Sometimes there are language barriers, but for the most part, she feels accepted and even welcomed.

She's even found a new pastime. It's called Capoeira, and Strickler says it is a mix of martial arts, Brazilian music and breakdancing.

If Capoeira doesn't do the trick, all she has to do is turn

to her kids. She doesn't know if she'll be back next year, though she's had a good offer to stay. For the moment, she's focused on this year and her students.

"Kids just make me laugh," she says. "You come in extremely stressed out, especially in Haiti, and they have these smiley faces. They keep it light."

Strickler didn't come to Haiti just to live in a bubble. That's why, on the weekends, she goes out when she can to meet the locals. And that's also why she hopes to volunteer, perhaps at a nearby orphanage.

She still recalls those breakfasts with her mother as they wondered if there really was anything that could be done to help those in Haiti.

She's determined to find out for herself. **NV**

*—Dan England is the outdoors and entertainment editor for the Greeley Tribune. He enjoys spending time with his family, including his twin girls, running marathons, and climbing mountains.*



## Nurse Plans Return After Responding in Quake's Aftermath

Curt Weibel (BS-92, MS-97) knew it would be pretty bad. He was going into perhaps the poorest country in the world hit by a magnitude 7 earthquake. Tens of thousands were dead and hundreds of thousands were homeless.

Plus, Weibel sensed what he was getting into.

A nurse who treated traumatic injuries in emergency rooms, Weibel had traveled to Mexico and northern India, where leprosy and polio were as common as the colds and flu he treated back home at the family practice urgent care Timberline Medical Center in Estes Park — where he's worked for the past 13 years.

"Haiti was a totally different critter," he says. "The conditions were shocking."

Longmont surgeon Peter Schmid had heard some of Weibel's stories over a long rotation together in plastic surgery, and so he called Weibel out of the blue just a couple days after the earthquake, saying he was being pulled by the heartstrings to go.

After their first charter flight fell through, Weibel's wife, Vicki Weldin (BS-87), found a plane that would land in the Dominican Republic — from there, it was a seven-hour bus ride to the field hospital where they would camp.

During the day, they hitched a ride provided by a church, which was running its own clinic in need of doctors. They spent the rest of their time in a Port-au-Prince general hospital.

The injuries were horrible, almost beyond belief, and most of the treatment involved amputations.

"I had one where I scooped thousands of maggots out of wounds so we could graft skin over them," Weibel says. "But it was beneficial to have them in there so there wasn't necrosis. Just about everyone we saw lost a limb or something."

They survived on bottled water, Powerbars and peanut butter. Conditions were primitive at best, with headlamps for light and horse tranquilizers for anesthetic — people still woke up during procedures. A hacksaw was used occasionally for surgery.

"You try to do the best you can to remove yourself from the fact that sometimes these were little kids," he says. "You just did what you had to do."

When he returned home, he gave plenty of lectures. Weibel likes to talk, so that was the best therapy, he says.

He did have periods of doubt in the nine days he was there. He wondered if what he was doing helped. When he saw a baby with an Estes Park T-shirt on, he knew then that he gave people a chance to live.

"It's like I was meant to be there," he says.

He goes back in May.

To donate for Weibel's trip to Haiti to help rebuild a clinic in Port-au-Prince, go to <http://funchurch.publishpath.com/missions>.

Story by Dana O'Neil

Reprinted with permission from ESPN.com

Photos by Jim Rydbom and Barry LaPoint

## The Ink on Devon Beitzel

**Resilient Academic All-American seizes control of life, inspiring his birth mother to do the same**

Her nerves frayed and her stomach flip-flopping, Michellene Lenz approached the front door to Joan Louth's home on Christmas morning.

For years, Lenz had been too embarrassed and ashamed to knock. The house had been her son's refuge, a shelter from a raging storm of a life he didn't create.

### SETTING THE FOUNDATION:

Long before he became the face of UNC's basketball team, Devon Beitzel turned to family friend Joan Louth, who opened her home to him during high school while his birth parents struggled to get their lives in order.

*“He had an inner desire to be successful.”*

—Bob Olds, a longtime rec league coach and referee who served as a mentor and coach to Beitzel

And Louth? She’d been the mother Lenz couldn’t be to Devon Beitzel.

It was Louth who made Beitzel his breakfast and served him dinner; she checked his homework and doled out the discipline; she listened to his worries and celebrated his accomplishments.

For all of that, Lenz was so grateful.

But she also knew it was because of her own failings that her son needed a place to retreat in the first place.

“It’s hard to pick up your face sometimes,” Lenz says, pausing and reaching for the right

words. “It takes a lot of healing. But this Christmas, oh my gosh, it was phenomenal. I felt so welcome, such a part of everything, and I realized, my gosh, that’s his family. They’re going to be his family forever. I want to be a part of it, and now I can. I don’t have to be embarrassed. My son loves me.”

Together and separately, Lenz and Louth have raised themselves quite a man.

Dealt a life predestined for hardship, Beitzel instead carved a path to success. The Big Sky Conference’s leading scorer (21.5 points per game) led the Bears to their first conference tournament championship and first berth in the NCAA Division I Tournament.

An Academic All-American who carries a 3.7 GPA in business finance, he already has a job lined up at Ernst & Young and will start there after his graduation.

He’s was also one of 10 finalists for the Lowe’s Senior CLASS Award, given to student-athletes for their achievements in sports and in their community. It’s considered one of the most prestigious honors a college athlete can receive.

And those aren’t even his most impressive accomplishments.

No, the most important thing Beitzel has done in his 23 years is take control of his own life, and in the process, inspire his mother to do the same.

“You’ve got to keep moving forward,” Beitzel says. “People make mistakes. People have their problems. But the biggest thing when you make a mistake is you’ve got to recognize it and make it right. You have to take care of yourself and do what you can to make sure your life is the way you want it to be. It’s really on you.”



Beitzel was sitting at Louth’s kitchen counter like he’d done countless times.

Best friends with Tyler Louth since the two were toddlers running their coaches ragged

on the courts and the fields at the local rec club in Lafayette, Beitzel had passed more than a few mornings, afternoons and evenings at that kitchen counter.

The year had been an especially tough one in a life full of terrible times for Beitzel.

When his parents weren’t battling one another in a stormy relationship that begat a nasty divorce, they were battling their demons. David Beitzel has been in and out of jail, his arrest record a laundry list of small crimes, most of them drug-related. Michellene Lenz never went to jail, but admits that, she, too, struggled with drugs and especially alcohol, once taking Antabuse, an FDA-approved medicine for alcoholics that makes people sick if they drink.

She left one bad relationship with David Beitzel for another equally disastrous one, putting herself into financial ruin to support both the men in her life and her habits.

“Those kids experienced so much crap, girl,” Lenz says of Beitzel and his younger brother, Dustin. “It’s just horrible to think about. They were tossed around. There was the divorce, the drugs, the alcohol, all of it. I’d pray to God, ‘Please don’t punish them for their mother and father’s mistakes.’ ”

Despite the chaos around them, the Beitzel boys were good kids. Respectful to their teachers, they made good grades, stayed out of trouble and took care of one another.

But Lafayette is a city with a small-town vibe, and most everyone knew about the Beitzel family’s hardships.

In this case, that was a good thing, not just more fodder for the gossip mill. Beitzel was buoyed by his community, finding support and help when his parents — who wanted to do right by their sons but were too overcome by their own demons — couldn’t.

“I’d see him at football practice, and it would be freezing cold, and he’d be in a T-shirt. I’d just ask, ‘What’s going on?’ ” says Bob Olds, a



longtime rec league coach and referee who served as a mentor and coach to Beitzel. “I remember one night at the gym, he was sitting in the waiting area at the front of the school, and I asked him if he had a ride. He said, ‘Well, no,’ and I just said, ‘OK, let’s go.’ ”

When Beitzel was in the eighth grade, his father, whom he had been living with, moved to Broomfield, a town about 10 miles from Lafayette.

Lenz by then was “a mess.” She’d lost her house and was stuck in an abusive relationship.

So Beitzel went with his dad to Broomfield for the year, but every weekend he came back to Lafayette where his friends were.

Nearly every weekend he ended up on Louth’s sofa.

And it was at the end of one of those weekends when Beitzel, sitting at the kitchen counter, turned to Louth.

It was May. Junior high was almost over, and high school was staring him in the face. “I remember he was getting ready to go someplace with Tyler and he said, ‘Can I ask you something?’ ” Louth remembers. “And I said, ‘You can ask me anything.’ And he just said, ‘Can I come live with you?’ ”



Louth knows a thing or two about raising boys.

She has three of her own — 25-year-old Zach, 23-year-old Tyler and 20-year-old Brent — and has taken in another, 19-year-old Carlos.

In fact, the woman has spent so much time surrounded by men, she went out and bought herself a female dog to bring down the testosterone level.

Though she was going through her own tough patch when Beitzel asked to move in — she would divorce not long after — Louth didn’t hesitate when he asked.

She said yes, but with two conditions: He’d live by her rules, and he’d have to get his parents’ OK.

As difficult as it was, they agreed.

“He’s a freshman, for crying out loud, having to make a man decision,” says Lenz, who always gave her boys whatever money she could spare and made sure to keep up with their health insurance. “But I had to let him go. I live with that every day. Those are years you’ll never get back, but you know what? If I had to do it over again, I’d do the exact same thing.”

**ON THE NATIONAL STAGE:** Beitzel, whose average of 21.5 points per game was 12th best in the nation, shares a moment with teammate Elliott Lloyd during a news conference at the NCAA Tournament.

**ABOUT HIS TATTOO:** Devon Beitzel says the tattoo on his right arm honors his birth parents and the family that helped raise him. Half of the tattoo features a dragon, which represents strength and courage impressed upon him by his birth parents. The other half, a phoenix, signifies the second chance he received from his extended family.



Beitzel's motivations were both simple and complex.

Sure, he wanted to live near his buddies and go to high school in his comfort zone.

It was also about more than that. Much more.

Teenagers might think that a life without rules and nagging adults would be the equivalent of nirvana, but Beitzel knew otherwise.

He recognized that he needed something that his parents couldn't provide. He needed structure and full-time guidance. "I know a lot of friends I have, they don't realize the opportunities they have, the blessings they have," Beitzel says. "They don't realize what people would give to have what they have."

Beitzel never had a curfew before Louth gave him one.

When she gave him and her own boys their first cell phones, reminding them that the reason they had them was to call with updates of their whereabouts, Beitzel was so conscientious that his brothers (Zach, Tyler, Devon and Brent refer to each other as brothers) ridiculed him for being a brownnoser.

And over time, Beitzel found more than just rules and regulations in Louth's house. He found a home. "At first it was so hard for him,"

Louth says. "I remember one time when his father was in jail, he talked to Zach, and Zach told me how much he was struggling. I asked him, 'Why didn't you tell me?' And he said, 'I didn't want to let you down.'"

"He was so worried that people would see bad and think he was bad. I told him that adults make decisions, and those are their decisions. Over time, he felt more and more at ease. He realized this wasn't going to end, that there was an undeniable commitment."

He drank on the weekends. Not a lot, but enough to feel it. Every now and again he'd smoke a little marijuana, too. It was nothing over the top — nothing more than what plenty of teenagers do as they experiment on their way to adulthood.

Except when Beitzel looked hard into the mirror, he didn't see the face of an innocent high school sophomore taking a harmless stab at rebellion.

He saw the first step on a path he didn't want to take.

Scared straight? Maybe not entirely.

Now 22, Beitzel admits he's "no angel." He has his share of college fun. But he is of age

and the fun is measured and smart, stemming from that critical crossroads at which he found himself at in back in high school.

"I wasn't a bad kid; I just wasn't as worried about other aspects of my life as I should have been," he says. "I realized if I wanted to go to college, I was either going to have to find a way to pay for it or get a scholarship, so I started getting into a routine. After school, I'd go to the gym for two hours."

Basketball was always a release for Beitzel. When his parents argued, he'd grab a ball and go find a quiet place to shoot some hoops. It was a place for him to be alone with his own thoughts, to enjoy the silence and to deal with his frustrations.

Now it was different. He realized that he was pretty good and that maybe he could use basketball as a means to an end. After earning all-state honors as a senior, Tad Boyle offered him a scholarship to UNC. Beitzel redshirted as a freshman and has since steadily improved his numbers — from 5.3 ppg in his first season to 11.8 as a sophomore to 14.3 as a junior to a scorching 21.5 this year.

He has made the transition for new coach B.J. Hill (who took over after Boyle jumped to Colorado) almost seamless, with the Bears rolling through Big Sky competition and the regular-season and conference

**FAMILY INFLUENCE:** A grateful Beitzel credits his parents for their roles in shaping his life. Joan Louth, left, and Michellene Lenz, who drew on her son's perseverance as a source of inspiration to reclaim her own life, celebrated senior night with him in the final game of the regular season. Pictured here with Coach B.J. Hill, they would later have something else to celebrate: a Big Sky Conference championship and berth to the NCAA Division I Tournament.

tournament titles, clinching a spot in their first NCAA Tournament.

"He had an inner desire to be successful," Olds says. "He was talented and he had toughness, but it's quite a tribute to that kid that he made it."

The toughest choices are often the most critical.

When Lenz agreed to allow her son to live elsewhere, more or less admitting she couldn't care for him, she spiraled even further downward.

Somewhere in the abyss, she found the way out.

Maybe it was because there was no place further to fall or maybe it was because in her sons, she found the thing she'd been missing: the ability to take up for yourself. (Dustin is now in the Navy aboard the USS Enterprise.)

"They've both just persevered," Lenz says. "I always told them 'Don't do the things I did.' How could anybody want the kind of life I had? I told them, to take charge of your life. I finally did the same thing."

In 2005, Lenz moved in with her mother. She lived like a hermit, keeping to herself and worrying finally about herself.

She went to church each week, found herself a job as an account manager at a supply company and started chipping away at the mountain of debt she had accrued over the years.

She even quit smoking.

When her mother got sick with cancer, Lenz cared for her, watching yet another person fight and claw against a crummy hand she'd been dealt but didn't ask for.

What kept her going, what still keeps her going, is Beitzel.

Handed a million excuses and a million reasons to be bitter or angry, he instead chose to be grateful. He never concentrated on what his parents couldn't provide but rather on what they did offer.

"My parents have always done everything they can for me," he says. "If it wasn't for the way they

brought me up, I wouldn't be able to do what I do. They always let me be my own person and trusted me to make my own decisions. I know a lot of times it was hard for them to support my choices, but they did because they knew it was the best for me. That's what parents are supposed to do."

Lenz became a regular at UNC games. Beitzel often visits her for lunch or dinner.

Home is still at the Louths', but that front door has been swung wide open, and the threshold to a new version of family has been crossed.

"People always ask me why I didn't adopt Devon," Louth says. "He has parents that he loves and that love him. We can be his family even if it's not a traditionally speaking one with a mom, a dad and a couple of kids. Family is what you make it, and we're a family."

If you Google "Devon Beitzel" and go to his bio page on the UNC Athletics' website you'll find this:

Son of Michellene Lenz, David Beitzel and Joan Louth ... he has five brothers. **NV**

—Dana O'Neil covers college basketball for ESPN.com and can be reached at [espnoneil@live.com](mailto:espnoneil@live.com).

#### DETERMINATION DEFINES BEITZEL, BEARS

Devon Beitzel's game improved each year, from 5.3 points per game as a redshirt freshman, 11.8 points as a sophomore and 14.3 points as junior to a Big Sky best 21.5 ppg this season.

Beitzel, whose 1,785 career points in high school rank 10th all-time in Colorado, redshirted in 2006-07. Recruited by Ivy League schools, he considered transferring to a Division II program as he adjusted to the Division I game.

His determination to prevail helped lead the Bears out of the Division I doldrums to this year's Big Sky Conference championship and NCAA Tournament.

"It was a dream come true," Beitzel says. "Five years ago, we were the worst team in Division I. That wasn't something we took lightly. It was just a huge motivational factor for us. It shows how our hours in the gym, hours in the weight room and watching film ... all that has just paid off."



#### FOR THE RECORD

The Academic All-American was the Big Sky regular season and tournament MVP, a national finalist for the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award, and an Associated Press Honorable Mention All-America team selection (second for UNC at Division I level):

AVERAGE PER GAME (2010-11)						
Games	Points	FG%	3PT%	FT%	Steals	Minutes
32	21.5*	47.9	39.4	90.4**	1.4	35.4

#### SCHOOL RECORDS

field goals made in a game	12
consecutive free throws made in game	16
consecutive free throws made	35
steals in a season	52
3-pointers made in single season	87
field goals made in single season	201
3-pointers made in career	229
points in single season	687

\* School record. Led Big Sky (ranked 12th in nation)  
\*\* School record (ranked 7th in nation)



Photos by Jim Rydbom and Barry LaPoint

**HOISTING THE HARDWARE:** First-year head coach B.J. Hill and the team celebrate clinching a berth to the NCAA Tournament after beating Montana, 65-60, in the Big Sky Championship at Butler-Hancock Hall.



From top (l-r): UNC fans cheer for the Bears during the NCAA Tournament game against San Diego State at the McKale Center in Tucson, Ariz.; From left, Paul Garnica, Chris Kaba, Neal Kingman and Taylor Montgomery prepare to sprint onto the court for practice; Hill, flanked by his daughter, Alana, interviews with TNT broadcasters (clockwise) Reggie Miller, Dan Bonner and Kevin Harlan; Kingman crosses center court as the Bears prepare for their game; Alum and Colorado Rockies co-owner Dick Monfort gets into the spirit during the Big Sky Tournament hosted at Butler-Hancock Hall.



# Marching Into the Madness

The Bears capped a storybook season by earning their first trip to the NCAA Division I Tournament — Colorado's lone representative — where the Big Sky Conference regular-season and tournament champs drew No. 2 seed San Diego State.

The odds against them — only four No. 15 seeds have beat No. 2 seeds in tournament history — the Bears put together a gritty performance. They pulled within three points with 14 minutes left behind a game-high 25 points by standout senior Devon Beitzel, before succumbing to the Mountain West Conference champs, 68-50.

The appearance marked a turnaround for a team four years removed from finishing its first Division I season with a 4-24 record — last in the rankings used by the NCAA to select tournament teams.

“We made history as a program. We did a lot of firsts,” Beitzel said at the postgame news conference.

**A look back at some of the milestones from the memorable season:**

- Undefeated home record (14-0; 27-2 past two years at Butler-Hancock) for first time since 1948–49 season (only other time that happened was 1926–27 season).
- First regular-season Big Sky Conference title, which earned Bears the right to host the conference tournament.
- First conference tournament title. UNC beat Northern Arizona 73-70 in the semifinals and Montana 65-60 in the finals.
- Individual accolades included Big Sky coach of the year honors for first-year head coach B.J. Hill and regular-season and conference tournament MVP awards for Beitzel, who was also an Academic All-American.

Students, above right, welcome ESPN to campus for the Big Sky Tournament; Hill, right, celebrates after winning the title.



**AT UNCBEAR.COM:** Read about the women's basketball team earning a share of the Big Sky Conference regular-season title and follow the football team's progress under the direction of new head coach Earnest Collins.

*“We made history as a program.”*

— Devon Beitzel

**2010-11 BEARS:** View student-athlete bios by clicking on “Roster” at: [www.uncbears.com/mbkb](http://www.uncbears.com/mbkb)





Former UNC student transforms strip of rolling prairieland into one of the world's best golf courses

Story by Jon Rizzi  
Photos by Todd Langley

# TEERING A MASTERPIECE



**FOUNDER'S VISION:** Former UNC student Rupert O'Neal knew next to nothing about golf when development of the acclaimed Ballyneal Golf & Hunt Club started. Says one longtime acquaintance, "He's the savviest corn farmer you'll ever meet."

Rupert O'Neal's tie-dyed Grateful Dead T-shirt screams from beneath a charcoal fleece as he tucks into a hearty steak-and-egg lunch at Cherry Creek's Argyll GastroPub. His sartorial and musical tastes evidently haven't changed much during the three decades since he attended the University of Northern Colorado, nor has his boyish smile and tousled hairstyle, save for its heavily salt-and-peppered shine.

"Do you think guitarists are cooler than drummers?" he asks the server as she refills his water glass.

"It depends," she answers. "Why?"

O'Neal volunteers nothing. When she admits a preference for drummers, he feigns exasperation because he, of course, plays guitar.

Far from an aging musician on the make, the happily married father of three flirts with recognition on a far grander scale. A successful farmer and hunting-dog breeder, he also happens to be the brains and vision behind Ballyneal Golf & Hunt Club — a Holyoke, Colo., facility *Golf Magazine* called the "Best New Course in the World" in 2006 and currently ranks 48th in the U.S. and 83rd on the planet. *Golfweek* placed it fifth among all courses built after 1960, and in February, *Colorado AvidGolfer* readers voted it the top

**ROLLING ALONG:** Sitting 10 miles west of the Nebraska state line in the rugged "chop hills" south of O'Neal's hometown of Holyoke, Ballyneal unfurls organically between colossal dunes punctuated by prickly yucca, native grasses and natural bunkers.

**A DIFFERENT VIBE:** Below, Ballyneal's members fly in from as far away as Hong Kong to visit the club, where they can go on guided hunts and have their game cooked for them. Before the meal, they may find themselves lawn-bowling with O'Neal on a mammoth green between the clubhouse and lodge (pictured). *Photos courtesy of Ballyneal Golf & Hunt Club*

private course in the state, ahead of such venerable redoubts as Castle Pines and Cherry Hills.

Just one round at the course validates such laurels. Sitting 10 miles west of the Nebraska state line in the rugged "chop hills" south of O'Neal's hometown of Holyoke, Ballyneal unfurls organically between colossal dunes punctuated by prickly yucca, native grasses and natural bunkers. The firm, fickle fairways pinball shots left and right as they roll and roll toward expansive greens with more undulations than the ocean, which millions of years ago covered this part of the world and left the kind of sandy soil and heaving topography that spawns great golf courses.

Like many of the world's great courses, Ballyneal eschews carts, provides caddies and offers its members — who hail from as far away as Hong Kong — delectable meals and plush but unpretentious accommodations. At Ballyneal, though, members can go on guided hunts on O'Neal's property with champion game dogs for dozens of upland bird varieties, including trophy Chinese ring-necked rooster pheasants — and have the day's quarry exquisitely prepared for dinner. Before they eat, members and their guests often find themselves on the mammoth green between the clubhouse and lodge — not to practice putting, but to lawn-bowl with O'Neal or each other. Evenings often run late with card games, spirited bonhomie or impromptu jams featuring the owner on guitar.

"We're more of a club in the country than a country club," O'Neal says. "We have a completely different vibe than other courses."

That approach stems, in part, from the fact that he knew next to nothing about golf when the project started. The idea for the course came from his younger brother, Jim, currently a PGA Professional at Meadow Club in Marin County, Calif., who believed the landforms he'd seen during British Open telecasts mirrored those of the chop hills south of Holyoke.

"Jim had been talking about that since he was on the high-school golf team," Rupert says. Then, years later, after Rupert had taken over the family farm and started his successful upland bird-hunting club, he heard the buzz surrounding the 1995

opening of Sand Hills Golf Club in Mullen, Neb. He called Jim. The two purchased 700 acres near the farm, and in 2002, hired Tom Doak, fresh from his triumph at Oregon's Pacific Dunes (currently ranked Golf Magazine's No. 1 U.S. public course), to design Ballyneal.

Boulder-based attorney and member Steve Taffet, who has known O'Neal for two decades, calls him "the savviest corn farmer you'll ever meet."

"Rupert has deep and loyal support from original founders," Taffet says. "They have become more committed financially and emotionally as the course has come into existence."

O'Neal's counterintuitive model defends Ballyneal's uniqueness. "My motivation in starting the club was a desire to have more exposure to more intriguing individuals," he says. "My college experience lit the fuse for a desire to understand more about people."

That he did. After graduating from Holyoke High in 1978, O'Neal went to UNC because "it wasn't Holyoke; it was the big city. When you come from a tiny universe, everything gets magnified beyond merit — the weather, the football game against Haxtun. It's a cloistered world."

Likening himself to a goldfish, he says he swam from the smaller castle on one side of the bowl to a bigger one on the other side in Greeley. In doing so, he went from being the state's second-best wrestler in his weight class to a "great sparring partner" on one of legendary Coach Jack LaBonde's last teams. "I couldn't compete," he says. "In high school, I got taken down once my entire career. In college, I got only one take-down — in the practice room."

Wrestling may not have been his life's calling, but in addition to humility, his wrestling experience taught him self-confidence. "I had a reliance and faith in myself. If I put my mind to something, I could do it. I learned if you wanted to make money, you thought up a way and you did it."

While nominally a Physical Education major, he silk-screened Grateful Dead album covers onto disks and T-shirts and sold them at shows, staged 600-person pig-roasts featuring, among others, Tim





**UNPRETENTIOUS WELCOME:** A branded wooden sign and metal gate mark the entrance to Ballyneal on a stretch of dirt road in Holyoke. O’Neal started the hunting club prior to developing the course.

Duffy and the All-Stars. “I never made a lot of money, but I learned that self-employment and hospitality suited my disposition.

“I treasure my time in Greeley,” O’Neal continues. “I appreciated the experience. I was exploring new worlds. Golf wasn’t one of them. I was a rock climber, a Frisbee player. I met people who weren’t like me — from different states, different ethnicities, including my roommate. It opened the door; it opened my eyes.”

**“Rupert’s kind of hippie meets golf pro meets golf-course designer meets hotelier—just an enthusiastic blend of all those things.”**

*—Bob Webster, director of the Western Golf Association*

Joking that he “needed more space to shoot myself in the foot,” O’Neal left UNC after his junior year and returned to Holyoke, where he worked on the 2,500-acre farm, but bolted each fall as soon as the harvest was done. “To my father’s chagrin, I ski-bummed all over. I experimented and enjoyed my life as much as I could. I collected experiences, saw how people did things.”

One of the things he did was get married in 1986 to Claire Curlander, a successful CPA who shared his wanderlust. Even after

having three children, they were able to travel the world — Europe, Australia, Papua New Guinea. With Claire working, Rupert found himself home with the kids, managing the farm and loaded with blocks of time. The entrepreneurial instincts that first surfaced at UNC led him to Rich Cummings, a local dog breeder, with whom he started a private hunting club in 2000. “I wanted it to be private, to have well-educated people who’d be fun to hunt with,” explains O’Neal. “We bought a little house in town. But then I thought, ‘How can I grow this hospitality component?’ ”

That’s when the golf idea came up, he says. There were times during the construction that he felt like Ray Kinsella in *Field of Dreams*. But when the course finally opened and it got ranked so highly, “I said, ‘the golf gods decided it was going to be something completely different than what I’d originally intended. I’m no longer the dumb farmer who built a golf course. I’ve been put in this position to take care of this place. The golf world is huge. The goldfish had finally escaped the bowl.’ ”

O’Neal actually left the Holyoke bowl and moved to Denver a few years ago. He goes between the two regularly, running the club and the farm, entertaining guests at Ballyneal, working with a loyal membership to find more intriguing people to keep the club the special place they’ve made it. Ballyneal has hosted, among others, Ben Crenshaw, Davis Love III and Sandra Day O’Connor. O’Neal is a member of the Western Golf Association,

which administers the Eisenhower-Evans Scholarship program that rewards high school seniors who caddie, like those at Ballyneal, with full scholarships.

“Rupert’s a breath of fresh air. He brings a different look to it and different ideas,” says program recruiter Erin Bessey (BA-05), who played varsity golf at UNC. “People like him make my job easier. He volunteers to let kids from Denver come to Ballyneal for the summer and caddie.”

Adds Bob Webster, director of the Western Golf Association and a governor of the Colorado Golf Association, “Rupert’s kind of hippie meets golf pro meets golf-course designer meets hotelier — just an enthusiastic blend of all those things.

“It’s amazing, the personal interest he has in helping kids in the community,” Webster continues. “He has such a clear vision.”

O’Neal says “a lot of good can come out of a place people think of as special” before revealing that there will be a second 18-hole course at Ballyneal.

“And, no,” he adds with a wink, “it won’t be called ‘Grateful Dunes.’ ” **NV**

*—Jon Rizzi is the editor of Colorado AvidGolfer magazine, former managing editor of T&L Golf and winner of the 2010 Colorado PGA’s Todd Phipers Media Award.*

Story by Anne Cumming Rice

# Steeling Minds

Foremost authority on mental toughness, Jim Loehr offers counsel to clientele that includes star athletes, business executives, FBI agents and special forces.

You’ve heard the stories. You’ve probably told a few of them to yourself.

“I can’t exercise.”

“I have no time to spend with my family.”

“It’s going to be impossible to quit smoking.”

Jim Loehr says these things we tell ourselves are not only false, they become self-fulfilling prophecies.

Author of 13 books, including best sellers *The Power of Full Engagement* and *The Power of Story*, Loehr is known worldwide for his expertise on mental toughness. He co-founded the Human Performance Institute in Orlando, Fla., where he has worked with world-class athletes, business executives, FBI hostage rescue teams and military special forces.

Mental toughness, Loehr says, comes from training ourselves mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. He calls it “energy management,” with energy defined as the capacity to work at the best of our ability.

“Human beings are complex energy systems,” he says. “We manage our time and money with precision, but we don’t manage our energy well. But when you take the energy out of people’s lives, you collapse them.”

At UNC, Loehr earned degrees in Counseling Psychology (MA-66, EdD-68). He went on to become the chief psychologist at the San Luis Valley Comprehensive Community Mental Health Center in Alamosa. There, Loehr befriended Adams State College track and field coach Joe Vigil.

“He probably asked me 50 times what I could tell his runners to help them run better,” Loehr says. “That got me involved in looking at the application of psychology to human performance.”

Captivated, Loehr resigned from his job and started working with athletes, many of them top tennis players. In 1992, he teamed up with Jack Groppe, author of *The Corporate Athlete*, to form the Human Performance Institute. Johnson & Johnson bought the institute in 2008.

People from all over the world — most of them in high-stress fields including law enforcement, military, business and medicine — take the institute’s training courses that combine psychology, physiology and nutrition. The institute also offers a sports-specific program in mental toughness for athletes and coaches.

Participants learn that managing energy, not time, is the key to performing well under high stress. The source of much of that energy, Loehr says, is the stories we tell ourselves, both positive and negative.

Loehr went through a paradigm shift of his own, as he shares in *The Power of Story*. When his business took off in the early 1980s, his work took him all over the world. He told himself this was the time in his life to devote to his career, but every time he came home, he felt like he and his three sons were strangers.

Then one day he made a promise: Any night he wasn’t home, he’d call at 8 p.m.

“It was one little ritual between my sons and me, but it made a huge difference,” Loehr writes in the book. “It only helped me rewrite my story as a father.”

The paradigm shift Loehr teaches also means seeking stress rather than avoiding it and taking “down time” for rest. People who lack mental toughness fit into one of two categories — they’ve either never been pushed to their limits, or they’ve been pushed too far without adequate recovery from stress, Loehr says.

In today’s economic climate, Loehr says many of his clients are under more stress than they’ve ever experienced. But that stress has the power to lead people to greater strength.

“We have to be able to go through storms and still get the job done,” Loehr says. “As long as people are able to recover from stress, they’ll get through the tough times.” **NV**

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



**MENTAL IRON:** The client list for Jim Loehr’s Human Performance Institute has included golfer Mark O’Meara; tennis players Jim Courier, Monica Seles and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario; boxer Ray Mancini; Indy 500 champion Eddie Cheever Jr.; hockey players Eric Lindros and Mike Richter; Olympic gold medal speed skater Dan Jansen; and Pro Bowl quarterback Jim Harbaugh, now the coach of the San Francisco 49ers. *Photo by Chip Litherland*

## Loehr: 6 Tips to be Mentally Tough

- Remember that stress will reveal your strengths and enable you to build upon them.
- Don’t assume you will be prepared for the changes ahead. Invite change, seeing it as an opportunity to grow emotionally, mentally and spiritually.
- Pay attention to the stories you’re telling yourself. Most of the things you tell yourself you can’t do are actually untrue. You *can* be more purpose-driven and values-focused.
- Figure out what’s most important to you and honor those things. If honesty and integrity are important, for example, practice them. If you don’t, you’ll lose them.
- Exercise the “muscle” of optimism. Once your hope is gone, you have nothing. It’s easy to become bitter and cynical if you allow things to get to you.
- Allow time for recovery from stress. This includes physical needs like sleep, hydration and good nutrition. Down time is productive time, not wasted time.

# 'I felt like I was a player, and the doctors and nurses were the coaches'

## Legendary Coach on Surviving Car Accident, Battling Cancer

Story by Lynn Klyde-Silverstein

On Sept. 5, 2008, UNC alumnus and Northern State University basketball coach Don Meyer fell asleep at the wheel while driving to a team retreat in South Dakota. His Toyota Prius veered across the yellow line and into the path of an oncoming tractor-trailer.

His injuries seemed insurmountable:

- Every rib on the left side of his chest was broken.
- His diaphragm was torn away from the bone.
- His spleen was damaged so badly it had to be removed.
- His liver was cut.
- He suffered internal bleeding.
- While the surgeon was working to control the bleeding, he found inoperable cancerous tumors in Meyer's small intestine and liver.
- A few weeks later, his mangled left leg was amputated below the knee.

But Meyer fought back.

Eight weeks after the accident, he returned home from the hospital. The next day, Meyer arrived at the Northern State gym for a 5:30 a.m. practice.

Four months after the accident, he broke Bob Knight's career record for most wins by a men's college basketball coach. He retired in 2010 with a record of 923-324 and a national championship on his coaching résumé (Lipscomb University, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, 1986).

But before all that, Meyer (BA-67, MA-68) was a student at UNC (then Colorado State College), where he played baseball and basketball and majored in Physical Education with a minor in English. He also earned a master's degree in Physical Education.

Meyer arrived in Greeley in 1964. He was a pitcher on the baseball team and hoped to turn pro. But he was not drafted and instead became a coach.

Years later, while rehabilitating from his injuries after the car accident, Meyer drew on the idea of teamwork that he had honed while at UNC. "I felt like I was a player, and the doctors and nurses were the coaches," he says.

Among his visitors at the hospital were George Sage, who coached him at UNC; Jerry Krause, a former UNC assistant who went on to coach Eastern Washington for 17 years and is now the director of basketball operations at Gonzaga; and Ron Vlasin, Meyer's UNC teammate and coach of the UNC women's team from 2001



**SURVIVOR:** Doctors discovered inoperable cancer following Don Meyer's head-on car accident. Today, Meyer gets an injection once a month to treat the cancer and walks with the help of a cane and prosthetic (pictured here during a speaking engagement for the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act in Aberdeen, S.D.). Photo courtesy of Aberdeen American News

to 2006. Sage (BA-55, MA-57) is a professor emeritus in UNC's School of Kinesiology and Physical Education. Vlasin (BA-66) has won nine state high school basketball championships, more than any other coach in Colorado history. Krause (MA-65, EdD-67) has authored more than 30 books on basketball coaching.

"We were able to laugh and joke and make fun of each other. That's what coaches do," Meyer says. "The big thing is the relationships you make in a situation like that."



**RECORD BREAKER:** Meyer returned to coaching eight weeks after the accident en route to breaking Bob Knight's career record for wins. Photo courtesy of Northern State

Meyer says he feels fine today. He gets a shot once a month to fight the cancer and walks with the help of a cane and prosthetic, which he lightheartedly refers to as Roger — named for a neighbor whose last name is Legge.

"He never complains and continues to comment how lucky he is because so many others have it so much worse," says Northern State Assistant Athletic Director Zach Flakus. "It's funny, but you really get the feeling that he thinks he is extremely lucky this happened to him."

Although retired, Meyer is still committed to Northern State. He works with the school's president on enrollment, he conducts one-day seminars on leadership across the country, and he does a little fundraising. "Once you get out of coaching, life gets a lot easier," he says. "It's like a vacation every day."

His schedule allows him and his wife, Carmen, to make trips to Greeley to visit her parents, and he remembers with fondness his time on campus. "Fall baseball was fun. The weather is so great in the fall out there," he says.

And he could never forget Gunter Hall, the former gymnasium that now houses the College of Natural and Health Sciences. "I love that old gym," he says. "Gunter Hall was just a great place to play basketball. It's a shame they couldn't keep it the way it was."

Reflecting on his time at UNC, he knows he chose the right college.

"Greeley was the best place for me to go," Meyer says. "It gave me a foundation and a chance to be under great people. I really was very lucky." **NV**

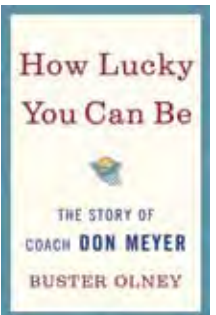
—Assistant Professor Lynn Klyde-Silverstein worked as a sports and news reporter and copy editor before teaching Journalism at UNC.

**STARRING AT UNC:** Meyer earned two degrees and played baseball and basketball. He's pictured here against the Mexican National team in a game Dec. 3, 1966, at Gunter Hall. That season, the Bears' leading scorer averaged 15.3 points per game and led the team to the Division II playoffs. Thirty years later, he was inducted into the UNC Athletics Hall of Fame. Courtesy of UNC Archives



Don Meyer's inspirational story is the subject of *How Lucky You Can Be: The Story of Coach Don Meyer*, written by ESPN's Buster Olney.

It's the story of a boy who grew up on a farm in Nebraska and became an inspiration not only to hundreds of players, but also to thousands of others, from Division I coaches like Bob Knight and Pat Summitt to everyday heroes in Aberdeen, S.D., the home of Northern State.



He preached three rules: 1) Everybody takes notes. 2) Everybody says, "Yes, sir" "Yes, ma'am," "No, sir," and "No, ma'am." In other words, be courteous to everybody. 3) Everybody picks up trash.

In 38 years of coaching, only one of Meyer's players who completed his playing eligibility failed to graduate.

**Here's an excerpt from the book:**

His desire for knowledge about coaching had gotten Meyer into trouble when he was in college, playing for Northern Colorado. In the reference section of the library, Meyer saw a coaching magazine called the Athletic Journal. Meyer found the diagrams contained within the pages fascinating, so he cut them out and pasted them into a notebook that he kept — until he was caught and required to refund the money for the cost of the mutilated magazines. He had always known that he wanted to coach — indeed, he had informed George Sage, his college basketball coach, during his sophomore year that he would be a coach. Sage gave his players handouts to explain some piece of the offense or defense, or an inbounds play, and often Meyer would come back the next day armed with questions. "I'd never had a basketball player who was so intent about learning all the intricate details about offense, defense, practice drills," Sage recalled.

From the Book, *How Lucky You Can Be: The Story of Coach Don Meyer*, by Buster Olney. Copyright © 2010 by Buster Olney. Reprinted by arrangement with Ballantine Books, an imprint of Random House Publishing Group, a division of Random House Inc. All rights reserved.

# Class Notes

Compiled and edited by Margie Meyer

## 1940s

**Albert Buzbee** (BA-48), Colorado Springs, was a teacher for 35 years in Colorado Springs School District 11. He and his wife, Luanne, raised their six children in Colorado Springs, and many of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren live nearby.

## 1950s

**Charles “Chuck” Holmes** (AB-50, MA-64), Greeley, was inducted into the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame in October for his work preserving aviation history through his book, *Honoree Album of the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame*, published in 1994. Chuck was recognized for his service and dedication to Colorado aviation and for donating an extensive collection of more than 2,100 aviation autographs to the society and to the USAF Academy. He was a teacher and administrator for 38 years with Greeley-Evans School District 6.

**Luella (Taylor) Willich** (BA-57), Denver, lives at Sunny Acres Retirement Community where she continues to read, write letters and do her own cooking.

## 1960s

**Kenneth Mitchell** (BA-65, MA-67) and **Vicki (Clark) Mitchell** (BA-69), Cosmopolis, Wash., have retired after long careers in teaching and administration. During his 45-year career, which took him from Colorado to Kansas and Washington, Kenneth received national awards in pencil drawing and oil painting competitions. Vicki was a teacher and administrator for 38 years. She is published in *Innovation Abstracts*, *Community College Journal* and *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

**Ron Benson** (BS-68, MA-71), Wheat Ridge, retired in 2008 after working in the parks and recreation area for 40 years. Most recently, Ron was the director of parks, trails and open space for Douglas County. He serves as the governor for Colorado/Wyoming Optimist District. Ron and his wife, Linda, are active in their church and enjoy traveling, fly fishing and helping children through the Wheat Ridge Optimist Club.

**John Dinsmore** (MA-68), Kearney, Neb., retired in 2006 as professor emeritus from the University of Nebraska at Kearney after serving 38 years in the Department of Art and History. During John’s tenure, he was chair of the art department and was noted for his work in art education and the development of a program in fiber arts.

**James Friss** (BA-69), Naugatuck, Conn., retired from Academy Corp. of Albuquerque, N.M., after serving for eight years. James previously worked for 27 years at Handy & Harman in Fairfield, Conn.

**E. John “Jack” Rabe** (EdD-69), Whitewater, Wis., was inducted into the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009. From 1961 to 1997, Jack taught, coached and served as the chair of the health, physical education and recreation department at UW-Whitewater, where he introduced wrestling and gymnastics as intercollegiate sports.

## 1970s

**Norman Cavedo Jr.** (BS-70), Lake Geneva, Wis., is a senior vice president with the wealth strategies group of Northern Trust in Chicago.

**John Hinshaw** (BS-71), Loveland, retired a third time in 2008. John and his wife spend six months a year in their Loveland home and the rest of the year on their boat in the Pacific Northwest.

**David Myers** (BA-72, MA-75), Albuquerque, is a member of the faculty at the University of New Mexico School of Law, where he serves as historian and director of archives. David’s wife, **Barbara (Burridge) Myers** (BA-73), is a retired librarian.

**Patricia (Turner) Sargent** (PhD-72), Tulsa, Okla., was named 2011 Distinguished Alumna by Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa. This is the highest honor bestowed upon alumni by the college.

**James Herrell** (BA-73, MA-78), La Junta, is the vice president for instruction at Otero Junior College and the founder of Not 1 More Acre, a group that has led the political and legal fight to stop the expansion of the



### Oil-Spill Expert Leads NOAA Ocean Service

After spending nine months as lead response coordinator for the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, **David Kennedy** (BA-69) was named assistant administrator of the National Ocean Service, an organization that is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Kennedy, the acting assistant administrator since January 2010, has served 22 years at NOAA — previously as director of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and director of the Office of Response and Restoration.

The range of responsibilities at the National Ocean Service includes scientific research, hazardous materials response and restoration, coastal and resource management, and now the center of the national ocean policy, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.

With more than 20 years of experience leading hazardous materials management and response efforts, Kennedy has coordinated federal scientific responses to more than 100 oil and chemical spills worldwide, including Exxon Valdez.

In October 2009, he received a Presidential Rank Award and a month later was part of group recognized for outstanding leadership in completing environmental cleanup and historical preservation of the Pribilof Islands.

“One of the things that has me where I am today is in fact the anthropological side of my studies — knowledge of people, cultures and interactions and how we make all that work,” says Kennedy, who majored in Anthropology at UNC. “There is an awful lot about understanding people and cultures that is baseline to being a good executive and manager, and in moving forward.”

—Katie Owston

Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site and related encroachment in southeast Colorado. Jim and his wife, Donna, have three daughters.

**Janet (Pollard) Brooks** (BS-74), Kansas City, Mo., is the president of the Heartland Regional Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, an organization that supports gastroenterology and endoscopy nursing throughout Kansas and parts of Missouri.

**Lynnette Pfeiffer** (BA-74, MA-77, EdS-00), Colorado Springs, was named Colorado’s 2009 School Psychologist of the Year by the Colorado Society of School Psychologists. Lynnette is the department chair for the school psychologists at Colorado Springs School District 11.

**Margaret “Peggy” (Peterson) Hotchkiss** (MA-75), Navajo, N.M., is the principal of Navajo Elementary School. She serves on four dissertation committees and volunteers as organist for Good Shepherd Episcopal Mission in Fort Defiance, Ariz. Peggy earned a doctorate in educational administration and supervision from Arizona State University.

**Rhonda (Marshall) Fields** (BA-76, MA-79), Aurora, is the Colorado state representative from House District 42.

**Steve Morgan** (EdD-79), Claremont, Calif., will retire as president of the University of La Verne in summer 2011. During the 25 years of Steve’s presidency, the university’s undergraduate population doubled, the campus grew, distance and online education programs were developed and science and technology infrastructure was upgraded. The university’s auditorium will be renamed the Ann and Steve Morgan Auditorium in his and his wife’s honor. Steve was recognized as Educator of the Year by the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership and received the Chief Executive Officer Leadership Award by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District VII.

**Jim Sisson** (BA-79), La Junta, works for the postal service and owns a Mexican restaurant, the Mexico City Café.

## 1980s

**Steven Dietz** (BA-80), Austin, Texas, is a professor of playwriting at the University of Texas in Austin. He has been commissioned by the UT-Austin theatre department to create a play for the 2011–12 season.

**Kathleen (Garr) Drake** (BS-81), Parker, joined Ameriprise Financial as senior financial advisor and associate vice president after serving 15 years as a financial advisor with Smith Barney.

**Joseph Martin** (EdD-82), Flagstaff, Ariz., is the special advisor to the president on strategic planning and organizational development at Northern Arizona University. He was associate professor in the College of Education at NAU 1998–2001, president of Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque 2001–05 and returned to NAU in 2005 to resume a faculty position. Joseph is married and has four children and two grandchildren.

**Mark Mullins** (BA-82), La Junta, is a real estate agent with The Hancock Group Inc.

**Joseph Maqueda** (MS-83), Humacao, Puerto Rico, works in the maritime industry. He wrote a novel, *Hungry Like the Wolfe* and is working on a second book, *Scent of the Emerald*. Joseph is married and has three children. He enjoys spending time with friends and family, mountain biking and cooking.

**Roger Treece** (BM-85), New York City, was nominated for a Grammy award for his arrangement of “Baby” for Bobby McFerrin’s album, “Vocabularies.”



### Alum Shines On the Set of ESPN

**Ed Werder** (BA-82) parlayed a successful career as a print journalist, where he got his start when he was a UNC student working at the Longmont Daily Times-Call, into a prominent role on the sets of ESPN.

After a series of sports writing jobs from Boulder to Tucson, Werder moved to Dallas in 1989 and has been covering the Cowboys ever since.

Werder primarily covers the National Football League for *Sunday NFL Countdown*, *Monday Night Countdown*, *NFL Live* and *SportsCenter*. He also covers the NFL Draft and Super Bowl each year.

As a reporter at the Dallas Morning News, Werder won the Katie Award for best sports story in Texas for a series of reports chronicling the deteriorating relationship between Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and then head coach Jimmy Johnson. His coverage helped launch his TV career.

He notes one distinct difference between print and TV.

“You can’t report everything on television. Sometimes it’s hard to be concise.”

—Brittany Sarconi

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Michael Muskin (BA-76, MA-87), Director  
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**Ken Locke** (BM-87), Wichita, Kan., has worked as an air traffic controller for the Federal Aviation Administration since 1990. He served in the Peace Corps in Papua New Guinea from 1987 to 1989. Ken enjoys reading, is a triathlete and writes a newspaper column about the charm of small-town cafés called “On the Road with Ken and Ang.” He and his wife, **Angie Kittrell** (BA-86), have been married since 1987.

**Jeff Gardella** (BAE-88), Littleton, is the athletic director and assistant principal at Douglas County High School in Castle Rock.

**Kristine (Zamastil) Vondrova** (BA-88), Denver, helps college students experience Prague and Seville, Spain, through her job as a general manager at the European Study Abroad Center.

**Jacqueline Phillips** (BAE-89, MA-91, EdD-97), Thornton, practices special education law and is an adjunct teacher at UNC. Jacqueline has two grandchildren.

**Steve Soich** (BME-89), Littleton, graduated from Colorado State University with a master of music degree and earned Kodaly Methodology certification.

## 1990s

**Amy Harman** (BA-90), Shoreline, Wash., is a legal secretary. She enjoys traveling, cycling, kayaking and collecting art.

**Kevin Lynott** (BA-90), Riverton, Wyo., works for the National Weather Service as a meteorologist-in-charge. Kevin and his wife have three daughters.

**David Wertz** (PSY-90), Fort Collins, retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons after 20 years as a psychologist. Four of his seven children live at home and his adult children reside in the Denver area. He has one granddaughter.

**Scott Navratil** (BA-91), Littleton, is the vice president of sales and marketing for Vitelity Communications in Denver. Scott was selected as one of ColoradoBiz magazine’s top 25 most powerful salespeople in 2011. He is married and has two sons and is involved with the Denver Sigma Chi Alumni Association, the Cherry Hills Community Church, and various other clubs and associations.

**Chris Caesar** (BA-93), Austin, Texas, works as a program manager for the Texas Education Agency. Chris creates and manages dropout prevention pilot programs and does policy analysis and research on the education of at-risk students. He taught world geography, international relations, government and sociology for 10 years at Killeen High School in Killeen/Fort Hood, Texas.

**Richard Borchers** (MA-95), Westminster, was named among the top five percent of lawyers in the nation by Super Lawyers magazine. A former U.S. District Court magistrate judge, Richard is the founder of Legal Resolution Center, which provides mediation and arbitration services in the Rocky Mountain region.

**Jukka Koponen** (BS-95), Greeley, works for Burris Steiner as a controller.

**Brandy (LaMiaux) Martinez** (BS-97), Aurora, is a registered nurse/chronic care manager in internal medicine at Kaiser



**Brian Aucone** (BA-98) has moved back to his native Colorado to take on the role of general curator at the Denver Zoo. Fourteen years ago, he was an academic intern working in the Tropical Discovery exhibit, driving from Greeley to Denver on Saturdays.

Now as the vice president for animal collections, he oversees all aspects of the animal care program, including the staff that takes care of the animals. He is also in charge of giving breeding recommendations.

“We’ve got a great zoo, and we’re doing new and creative things,” Aucone says.

—Brittany Sarconi

Permanente in Denver. Brandy has two children, Mattie and Ozzy.

**Jason Crandall** (MA-99), Owensboro, Ky., is an assistant professor at Kentucky Wesleyan College. He is married and has three children.

**Aaron Jensen** (BA-99), Parker, works as a relationship manager for Elavon, a subsidiary of US Bank. **Laura (McClurg) Jensen** (BA-99) is director of sales for West Asset Management. Aaron and Laura celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary and have one son.

## 2000s

**Aksonin Castillo** (BA-01), San Jose, Calif., earned a DDS degree in December.

**Rick Stanton** (BA-01), Greeley, works in human services as a case manager for Weld County. A pianist, singer and vocal coach, Rick has taught and directed the artEXPOsed program for the past three years.

**Michael Combs** (BS-02), Tampa, Fla., created CareerTrackers, an internship program that matches talented indigenous Australians with companies and transitions them to employment.

**Clay Selby** (BA-02), Littleton, started a traveling sports medicine company in 2010 that was the official medical provider for the Winter X Games in Aspen in January. Clay traveled nationally and internationally as an athletic trainer and conditioning coach for the 2002–03 U.S. Snowboarding half-pipe team. He has also worked as an independent contractor for ESPN and Vans providing medical care to professional skateboarders and other action athletes. Clay earned a master’s degree and works as a physician’s assistant at Steadman Hawkins Clinic in Denver.

**Zachary Keller** (BA-05), Evans, won an Emmy award for his design of “Music From Penn State: Music Theatre Spotlight 2009.” Zach was the production designer for the series for four years. He is assistant professor at UNC’s School of Theatre Arts and Dance.

**Allison Gioscia** (BM-06), Asunción, Paraguay, is principal flutist with La Orquesta de UniNorte, a full-time symphony orchestra that presents a series of annual concerts, performs for all productions of UniNorte’s opera and ballet companies, and presents Paraguay’s annual New Music and Baroque Music festivals.

**Alexis Jackson** (BA-06), Denver, teaches theater at Cherokee Trail High School in Cherry Creek.

**Ashley Torgerson** (BA-07), Denver, is a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network.

**Cory Goshorn** (BA-08), Arvada, is pursuing a degree in music education at Metropolitan State College in Denver. Cory and his wife, **Audrey Bennett** (BS-07), have been married since June 2009 and have a son.

**Brandon Ogimi** (BS-08), Mililani, Hawaii, works as an auditor for CW Associates CPAs while studying to become a certified public accountant.

**Terry Crull** (DA-09), Hays, Kan., is the choral director and assistant professor of music at Fort Hays State University. Since Terry began conducting at FHSU, the Fort Hays State Concert Choir and Fort Hays Singers have been selected four times to perform at the Kansas State Music Conference.

**Eliza Goodwin** (BS-09), Englewood, completed the dietetics registration exam in May and works as the nutrition care manager at a skilled nursing facility.

**Matthew Parker** (BA-09) Topeka, Kan., lived in Bangkok for two years, where he taught English. He is enrolled in Washburn Law School.

**Kendra Campbell** (BA-10), Denver, teaches drama at Eaton High School.

**Danielle Kudelka** (BA-10), Parker, is a teacher at Cresthill Middle School in Highlands Ranch.

**Vanessa Ramirez** (BA-10), Indian Hills, works as a teaching artist for SmartARTS, an organization affiliated with the Brooklyn Philharmonic in New York City.



### Taking the Ring in the Circus

UNC graduate **Brian Crawford Scott** joined “Fully Charged,” the 141st edition of The Greatest Show on Earth by the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in Musical Theatre in 2008.

“As the 36th Ringmaster, I sing, introduce the people and their events, and tell the audience what exactly they are looking at and what is happening,” he says. “Basically, I am the narrator or announcer for the entire show.”

As for how he got the part:

“I was living in Manhattan and a friend of mine contacted me about the audition and suggested that I try out. I did some research and realized that it was a great opportunity for me. The more I learned about it, the more interested I became. I auditioned in front of all the producers and the whole creative team, and they were pleased with my performance. I signed a one-year contract in the hope of an extension down the road.”

### On Stage

The following graduates of the School of Theatre Arts and Dance advanced their careers by being cast in productions, hired for technical positions or earning awards in the first few months of 2011.

**Victor Morris** (BA-82) completed two feature films, *Restless* and *Wake Before I Die*.

**Ryan Jesse** (BA-07) made his Broadway debut in January as Bob Gaudio in “Jersey Boys.” He was also an understudy in an Asian tour of “Cinderella” and in the Portland, Ore., production of “Grey Gardens.”

**Catherine Philafas** (BA-09) was cast as Anne Hathaway in “Billy Shakespeare,” filmed in New Mexico and set to release summer 2011.

**Elyse Porterfield** (BA-10) filmed an episode of “CSI” and was scheduled to appear in the feature film “Water for Elephants.”

More news of onstage performers with UNC ties at: [www.uncalumni.org/vision](http://www.uncalumni.org/vision)

## Class Notes Submission Form

Name _____	Maiden Name _____
Major _____	Degree/GraduationYear _____
Student activity involvement _____	
Address _____	City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 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.

### Plan today for the BEARS of tomorrow.

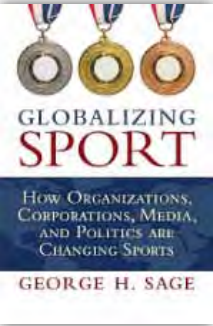
A simple will with a bequest to UNC will ensure future BEARS have scholarships available to pursue their dreams.

For more information, please contact:  
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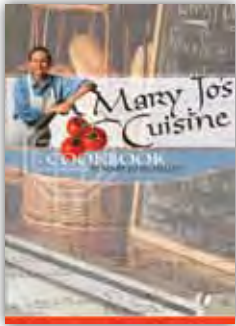


# Book Notes

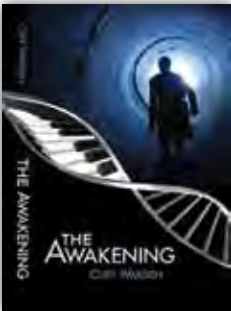
Published works by alumni, faculty, staff and students  
Compiled and edited by Margie Meyer



*Globalizing Sport*, published by **George Sage** (BA-55, MA-57), Greeley, is a comprehensive critical analysis of the global dynamics of sports. George is a professor emeritus of sociology and kinesiology at UNC and has published more than 50 articles, and has authored, co-authored or edited 20 books. He was inducted into the National Association for Sport and Physical Education Hall of Fame in 2006 and is past president of the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport.



Owning her own restaurant in Oxford, Ohio, prompted **Mary Jo (Strack) McMillan** (BA-73), Berthoud, to publish a cookbook by the same name. *Mary Jo's Cuisine* is a collection of tested and tasted recipes in an easy-to-use cooking guide that is written for both culinary professionals and amateurs.



*The Awakening* was written by **Cliff Warden** (BA-76), Onalaska, Wis. The science-fiction novel is about a 17-year-old piano virtuoso who discovers that he is the subject of a secret government genetic engineering project. Cliff practiced law for 10 years and works as a financial planner.



**Deborah Martinez** (MA-92), Pueblo, published a nonfiction children's history book, *Trade on the Taos Mountain Trail*. Set in the 1800s, the book focuses on trade goods and trading centers of the Native Indians and the Europeans and follows the development of trade routes from Canada to Mexico.



**Dana Oswald** (BA-98), Hilliard, Ohio, published her first book, *Monsters, Gender and Sexuality in Medieval English Literature*. Dana is an assistant professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha, Wis.

**E. Richard Churchill** (BA-59, MA-62) and **Linda (Ruler) Churchill** (BA-61, MA-62), Kersey, have published a number of children's works and educational learning sets. *The Six-Million-Dollar Cucumber, The Bionic Banana, Holiday Hullabaloo, I Bet I Can, Sneaky Tricks to Fool Your Friends, Amazing Science Experiments With Everyday Materials, Make the Grade Essays and Reports, Make the Grade Tests, Enriched Social Studies Teaching, Fun With American History, Fun With American Literature and Games and Puzzles for Family Leisure* are a partial listing of publications to their credit.

Alumni authors are invited to contribute to Book Notes c/o Northern Vision Class Notes. Please fill out the Class Notes form on page 28 or e-mail your Book Note to [northernvision@unco.edu](mailto:northernvision@unco.edu). (Submit book covers electronically at 300 dpi or greater.)

## Scrapbook: Friends After 40 Years

After first meeting each other in McCowen Hall in 1970, Lyn (Murtha) Danielson and her six roommates — Debbie (Desrosiers) Donovan, Cheri (Westdale) Budzeak, Joanie (Carson) Post, Julie (Tracy) Heidt, Karen (Updegrove) Peek and Judy (Newman) Harty — make it a point to maintain their friendships.

Over the past 20 years, Danielson says the group has met over a weekend every other year. They've spent time together in Denver, Breckenridge, Grand Junction and returned to UNC for a Homecoming celebration.

"Sometimes we would go months or even years between contacts, but whenever any of us reconnected, it was just like old times."

—Brittany Sarconi



## Michener Library Becomes Home to Collection of Famous Science Fiction Author

Michener Library now houses the official collection (below) of works by **Connie Willis** (BA-67), an award-winning author regarded as one of the world's premier science fiction writers.

The collection includes her hand written manuscripts, library editions of her own books (including international editions translated into various languages) and research for a number of her projects. It will eventually include her numerous awards. Willis, a 2009 inductee of the Science Fiction Hall of Fame, has earned an unprecedented 10 Hugo and six Nebula awards — two of the genre's most prestigious.

Willis will look to add a seventh Nebula Award to her accomplished writing career this spring. She is a 2011 nominee for her two-volume set *Blackout* and *All Clear* that follows three researchers from the future who travel back in time to the London Blitz during World War II.

Much of the collection's written material will be digitized and made available at [digitalunc.unco.edu](http://digitalunc.unco.edu), in part, to help budding writers better understand the writing process — one of the reasons Willis donated the collection.



## Trivia: Win Two-Volume Set of Willis' WWII Thriller

UNC's Hansen-Willis residence hall is co-named in honor of Connie Willis (see story, above). A UNC residence hall, Hansen-Willis, is named in her honor. Tell us who Hansen was and in what year the residence hall was dedicated to enter a drawing to receive the two-volume set of Willis' World War II thriller, *Blackout* and *All Clear*. Send your answer by May 15 to [northernvision@unco.edu](mailto:northernvision@unco.edu). Congratulations to last issue's winners who answered correctly that Job A. Cooper was the Colorado governor who attended the cornerstone laying of UNC's first building in 1890: Marsha Davis, Emily Carlton, Karen Rexx, Mark Swanson and Kurt von Helm. Photos of collection by Stephanie Burchett



## Mailbag: A Nephew's Tribute to UNC's Victorian Lady

I enjoyed reading your report in the fall issue of the "ghost of Edith" that haunts the campus. You say that the ghost is perhaps named after a former RA in one of the residence halls. Later you mention Edith Wiebking, after whom one of the residence halls is named. Although you say that the residence hall was built in 1936

when Tobey-Kendel was built, Wiebking Hall was built in approximately 1966. (Editor's note: *Wiebking and Wilson halls were built in 1957. The year was incorrect in the article appearing in the print edition.*)

Edith Wiebking was my great aunt and really served as a grandmother to me. I lived with her and her husband, Harry, in their house on 8th Avenue while enrolled at what was then Colorado State College of Education during my freshman and sophomore years.

I am sure her ghost is there on campus. It certainly should be, for she gave her life to the university and was a significant contributor to the direction and mission of the college, beginning with her appointment about 1901. One of the early graduates herself, she was a remarkable teacher and colleague of many faculty and administrators of the college.

Evidence of her ghostly presence would be indicated by aromas of fruitcakes. Every Christmas, she spent weeks in her own kitchen making fruitcakes from scratch that would be given as gifts to many at the university. She continued this popular custom until shortly before her death. While in college myself, I spent many hours delivering her fruitcakes to her faculty companions, many of whom have their names on buildings on the campus.

In her earliest teaching years, she was a strong supporter of etiquette, manners, dress, and personal presentation for both men and women. At one point, President George Frasier pronounced her "the Victorian Lady." Edith was more proud of this than the many accolades she received over the years. After retiring for a couple of years, she was asked to return for a year or two when the campus needed her. On her last teaching day, I am sure her students still looked at her as the Victorian Lady — she never hesitated to comment on etiquette.

Actually, Edith did supervise residence halls, supervising Belford and Snyder halls for several years while teaching at the same time. I remember spending Christmas vacations as a child roller-skating Snyder's long and smooth basement corridor during those days. A huge decorated tree in the main lounge sheltered the presents on Christmas Day that my father — far away in the Pacific during World War II — had managed to send via Santa Claus.

I am sure you will find her ghost in the kitchen during the holidays. Smell for the fruitcakes!

—William Pollock (BA-56, MA-60)

IF YOU MISSED IT, or would like to re-read it, check out last fall's cover story, "Ghost Stories: Imaginative Storytellers Keep Spooky Campus Myths Alive" at [www.uncalumni.org/vision](http://www.uncalumni.org/vision) (click on "Archives").



# In Memory

## 1930s

Gladys (Stewart) Page (BA-30, LCM-34)  
Helen (Dashen) Taylor (BA-36)  
Agnes (Stenger) Baiamonte (LC-37, BA-44)  
Kenneth C. Moore (BA-37)

## 1940s

Charlotte (Herman) Drake (BA-45)  
Viola (Swanson) Carlson (BA-46)  
Calvin L. Coleman (BA-49, MA-57)  
Miriam (Blevins) Peckham (BA-49)  
Charles “Doc” Rutherford (BA-49, MA-55, EdD-67)

## 1950s

Theodore “Ted” Foster (BA-50, MA-61)  
Dale H. Martin (MA-50)  
Elizabeth (Kieser) Easton (BA-51)  
Carol (Krull) Kirkpatrick (BA-51)  
Dorothy (Carpenter) Lillich (BA-51)  
Betty (Anderson) Leafgren (BA-52)  
Dwight L. Nichols (BA-52, MA-57)  
Darrel W. Lownsberry (BA-53)  
Ethel (Kistle) King (BA-54)  
Jerry P. Lightner (MA-54, EdD-61)  
Henry “Hank” M. Lujan (BA-54)  
C. Rockne Copple (BA-55, MA-57, EdD-63)  
Ida (Davis) Snyder (BA-55)  
Robert D. Van Gundy (MA-55)  
Arlene (Briggs) Ahlbrandt (BA-56)  
Robert Alberts (BA-56)  
Ray C. Cramer (EdS-56, EdD-64)  
Harold R. Decker (MA-56)  
Maurine (Long) Hagan (BA-56, MA-61)  
Robin D. Peckham (BA-56, MA-60)  
Jacob L. Foreman (EdD-57)  
Stanley F. Gross (MA-57)  
Robert J. Fitzgerald (MA-58)  
Elda (Ritter) Lange (MA-58)  
Billye N. Medlin (BA-58)  
Marybelle (Chase) Rockey (MA-58)  
Richard G. Tolen (MA-58)  
James F. Walton (BA-58)

## 1960s

Charlotte (Martin) Blatnick (BA-60)  
Douglas D. Keasling (BA-60, MA-63)  
Janet R. Leslie (BA-60)  
Benjamin A. Mevey (EdD-60)  
Duane L. Aschenbrenner (MA-61)  
Gaynel I. Lankenau (BA-61, MA-73)  
Karen (Johannes) Martini (BA-62, MA-68)  
Gean C. Abbott (MA-63)

Joan (Woodward) Nelson (BA-63)  
Margaret (Barrette) Slewitzke (MA-63)  
Gene A. Hochevar (BA-64, MA-68)  
Kenneth L. Olsen (BA-64)  
Johnie D. Starkey (EdD-64)  
Dennis J. Brady (BA-65)  
Clarka Dagilus-Trost (BA-66)  
Mildred (Thode) Sleep (MA-66)  
Madelon (Pfeiffer) Hoffman (MA-67)  
Charles C. Johnson (MA-67)  
Lonneta J. Kisselman (BA-68)  
Allen F. Mauldin (MA-69)  
Florris (Oswald) Crow (BA-69)  
Vicki Lynn (Hagerman) Fuller (BA-69, MA-73)  
Lois (Picht) Ness (EdD-69)  
Jerold R. Stewart (BA-69)  
Wayne K. Wickham (BA-69, MM-79)

## 1970s

James D. Glanzer (MA-70)  
Judith (Beach) Burton (MA-71)  
Hilree J. Hamilton (BA-71)  
Marolyn (Benson) Formo (MA-72)  
Brian N. Segelke (BA-72)  
Norma L. Sundin (BS-73)  
Robert C. Rogers, Jr. (MA-74)  
Trudy (Szabela) Lang (BS-75)  
Glover T. Barker (MA-76)  
Robert A. Franklin (MA-76)  
Mary H. Osmundson (MA-76)  
Robin (Kirkpatrick) Heinschel (MA-77)  
John S. Marshall (EdD-77)  
Candace (Conroy) Mociak (BA-78)  
Marshall H. Chazen (EdD-79)  
Frederick A. Rasmussen (BA-79)

## Emeritus Faculty

**John M. “J.M.” Johnson**, former professor at UNC, passed away in February. J.M. earned a bachelor’s degree from Colorado State College (UNC) in 1954 and a master’s and doctorate degree from University of Denver. Before becoming a professor at UNC in 1965, he served school districts in Scottsbluff, Neb., Stoneham, Adams City and Keenesburg, Colo. J.M. retired as professor emeritus in 1984.

**William G. “Bill” Parkos**, professor emeritus at UNC, passed away in October. Bill graduated from Mankato State University and taught high school science in Minnesota before earning a master’s degree and Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. He began teaching at UNC in 1970 where he helped build the health education and environmental health programs. Bill retired in 1998.

If your life has been touched or impacted by any of the 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.

## 1980s

Russell B. Sanford (BS-80)  
Marcella Dalton (BA-81)  
Dennis V. Kuhlmann (BS-81)  
Larry J. Claussen (MA-82)  
Merle D. Grimes (BA-82)  
Reba (Manning) Gee (MA-83)  
John L. Rohwer (EdD-83)  
Kim (Richardson) DuBois (BS-84)  
Doris (Ross) Haug (MA-88)  
Margreet (Hancox) Whitman (BA-88)  
Glenn A. Willis (BS-88)  
Kathleen Hanson (MA-89)

## 1990s

Teddy C. Mitchell (BA-92)  
Julianne Abendroth-Smith (EdD-93)  
Andrew R. Hodge (BA-94)  
Justin D. Covelli (BS-95)  
Victoria L. Downs (MA-96)

## 2000s

Steven J. Lebsock (BA-06)  
Nicole (Paterson) Riggan (BA-06)  
William H. Heyborne (PhD-07)  
Anthony M. Lanyon (BA-08)



**Nursing Students, 2010**  
(working on a simulated patient)

# Then AND NOW

- Today, the School of Nursing offers:**
- a baccalaureate in nursing for the traditional student;
  - a second-degree option for those who have already earned a bachelor’s degree in another field;
  - an online option for registered nurses who want to pursue a bachelor’s degree;
  - a master’s program with an emphasis in Family Nurse Practitioner;
  - graduate certificates in Family Nurse Practitioner or Nursing Education;
  - an online Ph.D. program in Nursing Education; and
  - an online Doctor of Nursing Practice.

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

**Nursing Students, 1974**

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