

UNC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO
FALL/WINTER 2017

magazine

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The View from Here

A stunning image by UNC Professor Rick Adams went viral after placing 15th in Nikon's global Small World Contest. Adams injected red and blue dyes into a third-trimester fetus of a flying fox fruit bat and then used rubbing alcohols to produce the see-through effect similar to a 3-D, color X-ray. The work is part of his study on bats' wing development.



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PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

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ON THE COVER

UNC Professor George Junne at the doorway of Dearfield founder O.T. Jackson's home, one of the Colorado community's few remaining structures. Junne explores African-American history and culture.

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Editor's Note

A LOOK AHEAD TO THE SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE

In September, President Norton announced her retirement (see page 3). In our next issue, we'll take a look at the changes and challenges she's faced over the past 15 years.

 For information about the national search for a new UNC president, see unco.edu/trustees/president-search

CLASS: BA 150 – Foundations of Business Thought**TAUGHT BY:** Jeff McNair, Lecturer in Management**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This class teaches students the fundamental thinking that drives business. Students learn the cultural, historical and philosophical thoughts surrounding business issues throughout the ages.

THE ULTIMATE QUESTION FOR THE CLASS:

Is the purpose of a business just to make money or does a business have other responsibilities as well?

Syllabus

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

BEHIND EVERY GREAT BUSINESS

is an even greater idea — or two, says professor Jeff McNair.

In his Business Administration 150 class, students explore the ideas of Plato, Aristotle, Karl Marx, Adam Smith, Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller and more. Each one, McNair says, has contributed to the study of business and economics.

“It could be taught out of the philosophy department or somewhere else, but it’s really ideas with a focus. I think people think, ‘Business, well it’s going to be profit, profit, profit,’ and so forth. We talk about the role of profit in business, but we talk as much as anything about ‘the other,’ the nonprofit part of business and commerce,” McNair says.

McNair holds two bachelor’s from Berkeley: one in Electrical Engineering, the other in Computer Science, and an MBA from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia with enough credits to qualify for a bachelor’s in Literature. In addition to his academic credentials, McNair brings professional experience to his classroom, with 28 years in upper management at Hewlett-Packard, where he did “a little bit of everything,” from startup management to overseeing the division of technology.

“I’m a jack-of-all-trades, master of none,” he says and smiles.

The goal of the class, McNair says, isn’t to entrench students in one way of thinking, but to expose them to a diversity of ideas, so they can come to their own conclusions. He gives extra credit to students who can link together two different ideas on a test.

“We can’t live without thinking the whole thing through — both sides of it,” he says.

In class, students read from great writers and thinkers and study speeches and contemporary business practices. McNair hopes that by teaching the foundational thinking behind business, students will not only understand where these ideas come from, but how to better navigate a world full of diverse thinking.

“Read not to contradict, nor to believe, but to weigh and consider,” McNair reads. The quote, from Francis Bacon, is one of his favorites. “If each of us could listen to both of the extremes in our current political polarization and do it in this way, perhaps the polarization would begin to fade. Not bad advice from the year 1600,” he concludes.

—Jason Keller

LEARN MORE

McNair recommends these books, ideas and movies for continuing studies into the foundations of business thought:

1. *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* by Charles Mackay (Book)
2. *Irrational Exuberance* by Robert J. Shiller (Book)
3. *Thinking Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman (Book)
4. *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell (Book)
5. *The Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith (Book)
6. Marx’s “Theory of Alienation” (Idea)
7. *Twelve O’Clock High* (Movie)
8. *The Merchant of Venice* (Play)



News Briefs

PHOTO BY ERIC BELLAMY

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH UNDERWAY FOLLOWING NORTON'S RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

UNC President Kay Norton (pictured above) announced during her annual State of the University Address on Sept. 12 that she will retire as president in June 2018. Norton, the longest-tenured among current presidents of four-year public institutions in Colorado, has served as UNC's 12th president since 2002. In UNC's 128-year history, she's the first woman to serve as president, and only three presidents had longer tenures. Norton made the announcement in the fall to allow UNC's Board of Trustees time to conduct a search for her successor. Feedback from a university survey of students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members was incorporated into the leadership characteristics of the job description that posted in November. A hiring committee includes trustees and faculty, staff and student representatives. The new president will be announced by the end of spring semester.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT SOARS TO DECADE HIGH

UNC's enrollment is the highest in a decade as the university experiences a third year of growth.

- Total enrollment grew to 12,968 (up 5.8 percent since fall 2016). The number of graduate students (2,992) grew by 8.5 percent to make up 23 percent of the total enrollment.
- Thirty percent of UNC undergraduates identify as a person of color — the highest percentage since 2010 when UNC started collecting data in the current manner. Among graduate students, sixteen percent identify as a person of color.

AREA'S PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PUMPED \$2.4 BILLION INTO REGION'S ECONOMY

Aims Community College, Colorado State University, Front Range Community College and UNC collectively added \$2.4 billion to the regional economy in 2015-16. An economic study of the four public institutions showed for every dollar spent by:



STUDENTS:
\$3.10 gained in lifetime earnings



TAXPAYERS:
\$5.80 gained in added taxes and public sector savings



SOCIETY:
\$6.30 gained in added state revenue and social savings

Funding Important Work

UNC RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GRANT FOR INCLUSIVE STEM INITIATIVE

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute awarded UNC a five-year, \$1 million grant to develop a classroom model and establish a new center to engage more students, from all backgrounds, in the sciences. UNC is one of 24 colleges and universities selected out of 511 in the first round of the Inclusive Excellence initiative sponsored by HHMI, the largest private, nonprofit supporter of science education in the United States. One of the project's goals is to increase retention and graduation rates of these traditionally underserved students. The new Center of Inclusive Excellence in STEM will provide infrastructure and leadership to continue STEM faculty development and expand this professional development across campus.

News Briefs cont. page 4



Quote worthy

“At UNC, you don’t need to conform if you want to belong. That’s one of the very powerful things about this place. There is no typical UNC student. This is a place where whoever you are, wherever you come from, you’ve got a shot. 🍷🍷

—President Kay Norton, during her State of the University address

SUBSCRIBE TO THE PODCAST

UNC researchers weigh in on a number of relevant topics, including the Equifax breach and how to protect yourself, on UNC’s *Bear in Mind* podcast. Don’t miss another episode.



Follow along at unco.edu/bear-in-mind

News Briefs cont.

STATE HONORS TWO UNC STUDENTS AS TOP TEACHER CANDIDATES

The Colorado Department of Higher Education selected UNC students Amie Bray and Joel Suarez-Ramirez, who were nominated by UNC faculty, to the department’s Aspiring Educator Honor Roll. They and other top students from Colorado’s 22 educator programs were honored during a ceremony last spring at the capitol in Denver to kick off Teacher Appreciation Week.

Bray received the College of Natural and Health Sciences’ Academic Scholars Award and is currently working toward her degree in Mathematics with an emphasis in Secondary Education.

Suarez-Ramirez is a teacher-licensure candidate in the secondary science program. The department scholar in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Suarez-Ramirez is also a member of UNC’s concert band and speaks English, French and Spanish.

BIZHUB RELOCATES TO UNC CAMPUS

The East Colorado Small Business Development Center and UNC BizHub Collaborative are now on UNC’s campus. The move will help the offices, which provide business planning resources to businesses and entrepreneurs in Colorado, be a better conduit for connecting local business owners and entrepreneurs to students, faculty and university projects.

VIKINGS SIGN FORMER BEARS QB AFTER STINT WITH BRONCOS

Former UNC quarterback Kyle Slotter quickly became a Denver Broncos fan favorite with his dazzling 2017 preseason performances with the team. The undrafted rookie started in the finale, leading the Broncos to a 30-2 win over the Arizona Cardinals before receiving a standing ovation from the crowd as he exited the field with his teammates. His prowess caught the attention of a number of teams, including the Minnesota Vikings — and the team promptly signed him after the Broncos waived him during final roster cuts. During the season, the Vikings promoted Slotter to their active 53-man roster, and he served as a backup.

UNC STUDENTS WIN DANIELS FUND ETHICS CONTEST FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

A team of six Monfort College of Business students won the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative 2017 Consortium Case Competition in Denver. For the competition, the UNC team analyzed a fictional case of safety issues in emerging technology. The team presented before a panel of eight judges and consisted of Evan Adams, Management and Accounting; Christopher Bristow, Management; Michelle Ellison, Accounting; Christopher Campbell, Finance and Accounting; Madison Marrs, Marketing; and Kendall Ryan, Marketing. Professors and faculty advisors Sharon Clinebell and Keiko Krahnke attended the presentation. The competition involved 10 business schools from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

AUDIOLOGIST ADDRESSES CDC

Professor Deanna Meinke addressed the global hearing loss epidemic as a featured expert at a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Panel discussion last summer. According to the CDC, one in three adults has hearing loss and 1.1 billion young people are at risk. “The risk of hearing loss is the combined effect of the sound level and the duration of listening,” Meinke said during the presentation. “Just like sun exposure and skin cancer, the longer in the noise hazard without protection, the greater the risk of noise-induced hearing loss.”

MUSEUM WELCOMES UNC FACULTY EXHIBIT

An exhibit developed by UNC faculty has taken up permanent residence in the same museum that displays instruments from the likes of Elvis Presley and John Lennon.

UNC Audiology and Speech-Language Sciences professors Don Finan and Deanna Meinke collaborated on the project for the Musical Instrument Museum.

The interactive exhibit on the properties of sound will feature an “instrumented” mannequin, known as “Jolene,” which allows museum patrons to measure the sound level at which they typically listen to music.

GO BEARS!

JORDAN DAVIS AND THE UNC GLOBETROTTERS

BEARS POINT GUARD TAKES TO
THE COURT IN ROMANIA AND THE
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

UNC fans may have read the *Sports Illustrated* story outlining the unlikely tale of how a Las Vegas native ended up in Romania with an Azerbaijani passport for a summer basketball tournament.

Basically, Azerbaijan's U20 national team, taking advantage of an International Basketball Federation (FIBA) rule that allows for one naturalized dual citizen per roster, recruited UNC point guard Jordan Davis to play in the FIBA U20 European Championship.

It was a great story about a UNC standout going international, and Davis followed it up with an impressive performance, returning from his summer travels in Europe as the top scorer in the tournament.

The numbers aren't surprising. Last season, as a sophomore, Davis led the Big Sky in assists and held the 53rd ranking in the nation for points per game. He set multiple UNC records and earned all-conference honors. His UNC performance drew the attention of scouts, and led him to Azerbaijani and Romania.

But the real payoff from his international experience was more than another impressive stat sheet. The experience taught him how to deal with people and strengthened his resolve, especially when faced with the team's losses in the tournament. Davis prides himself on his respect for the game, a trait noted by his UNC coaches. When not all of his European teammates took losses seriously, he had a choice: be upset

or take responsibility for what he could control.

"It just made me want to play harder," he says.

The experience broadened his basketball IQ. He spent hours watching European teams, observing a playing style similar to the system he learned last year under new UNC head coach Jeff Linder. It's a system that emphasizes stretching the offense across the floor, says UNC's Associate Head Coach Steve Smiley, and relies on a high level of skill from each player.

"It showed me that if you run it right, if you take your time and be patient, it works for anybody," Davis says.

Davis also gained confidence by leading a team of strangers who didn't all speak fluent English. He was told to guard the toughest opponents and score the most points. In a culture where his fellow athletes—whom he still stays in touch with—enjoyed hookah and going

BEARS ON THE BEACH

Davis wasn't the only Bear to gain international experience over the summer. In August, UNC men's basketball traveled to the U.S. Virgin Islands for a summer tour, giving the team the benefit of extra summer practices and experience playing teams from the U.S. mainland, U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada.

Besides basketball, the trip provided time for bonding, as redshirt senior Tyler Loose described in a blog post: swimming, snorkeling, and a bunch of 6-foot-something guys cautiously sneaking past a pack of iguanas on the way to the beach.



PHOTO BY ROB TRUBIA

out at night, he says he often elected to work on homework and watch game film. The confidence he brought back to Greeley, Smiley says, has a positive effect on his whole team.

Now, back at UNC, Davis has a lot on his mind, including his girlfriend and daughter who live back in Las Vegas. As much as he misses them, he's relying on the support system of his coaches and parents to help him focus on school and basketball so he can take care of his family; he hopes with a career involving basketball. This year, he was selected to the Big Sky Preseason All-Conference Team.

In the meantime, the Big Sky Preseason All-Conference selection applies what he learned in Europe, he's pushing himself to be a vocal leader as the Bears seek a single goal:

"Winning a championship, and doing it together," Davis says.

—Rebecca Dell

Junne, whose research covers African-American culture and history across a broad swath of time, says the town of Dearfield got its name from Denver physician J. H. Westbrook who said the land and colony would become "very dear to us."

GEORGE JUNNE, PH.D.
Professor, Africana Studies

A Place in Colorado History

PROFESSOR GEORGE JUNNE'S WIDE RANGE OF RESEARCH
EXPLORES AFRICAN-AMERICAN SUCCESS AND RESILIENCE
ACROSS THE YEARS

East out of Greeley on U.S. Highway 34 along the South Platte River, the geography is wide and open, with farmland stretching toward the eastern Plains. About 25 miles from Greeley and 80 miles north of Denver, you'll find the remnants of Dearfield.

Dust rises in the heat of late August as UNC Professor of Africana Studies George Junne walks along the dirt road, past several gray and weathered structures that remain from the town. Birds have made themselves at home in the old buildings, and their music carries over the rural quiet as Junne tells the story of the people who lived here.

In 1910, in hopes of establishing an African-American community, seven families (mostly from Denver) began to build lives, frame homes and plant crops here. Over the next 20 years, the small settlement grew to a population of 200–300 residents, with two churches and a school, restaurant, dance hall, market and gas station. Junne says the residents, with little previous farm experience, surprised and impressed local farmers with their accomplishments. Then the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl devastated the fledgling community.

These building shells hint at the story, but the community's hopes and plans are more tangible back at UNC, among fragile artifacts like letters, photographs and newspaper articles.

"The people of Dearfield wanted to have their own homes, their own land. They wanted to make it out here," Junne says. He uses the remaining fragments of Dearfield to tell their stories. "There's so much history out here on the Plains," he says.

A writer, scholar and teacher, he has published six books and more than 50 book chapters and articles on periods ranging from the Civil War and emancipation to the Harlem Renaissance and Colorado's participation in the civil rights movement.

Junne, who came to UNC in 1999, has traveled with students to Egypt, worked at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul as a visiting professor during summers since 2000, been honored for his discoveries as an amateur paleontologist, and been interviewed as an expert in *USA TODAY* and for various publications and films.

Last year, he was interviewed and filmed for an award-winning PBS documentary called *Clara: Angel of the Rockies*. One of the first African-American women to live in Denver, Clara Brown was emancipated from slavery in Kentucky in 1858 and traveled west hoping to find her four children, who had been sold years before. She went first to Missouri, then walked most of the 700-mile distance from there to Colorado. In Central City, she established a laundry business and invested in mining claims. With a deep sense of community and a strong Christian faith, Brown sheltered those who were ill or homeless, gave money and time to community churches and became known as "Aunt Clara."

By the end of the Civil War, she'd saved \$10,000 and returned to Kentucky, still trying to find her children. Unsuccessful, she paid for the travel of some 16 freed men and women to come to Colorado, and later used a large part of her wealth to send African-American women to college and help others settle in Colorado. After searching most of her life for her surviving daughter, Eliza Jane, Brown reunited with her daughter at the age of 82. She died in 1885, and an estimated 400 community members and civic leaders (including Denver's mayor and Colorado's governor) attended her funeral.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Junne says that Dearfield is one of an estimated 25 black communities that were established around Colorado.

A Place in Colorado History cont.

“Clara Brown is a good example of the strength of black women. This woman, who did not have an education, helped shape the Black American West,” Junne says. “You have a woman who comes from being personal property to being a successful businessperson. And she did it with basic Christianity. Her house was open to anybody wherever she lived.”

As he uncovers stories about African-Americans like Dearfield residents and Clara Brown, Junne shares his findings with his classes at UNC, and students are often surprised.

“Black history is American history as well,” he says. But he explains that it’s history that isn’t always taught in elementary, middle and high schools.

“There is this sense that black people didn’t do very well. Black people could own hotels and businesses and so forth — that’s some of the success people don’t know about,” he says.

Back in Dearfield, Junne smiles as he talks about a group of elementary students who travel here from Denver every year. The children walk the dusty road with papers and pencils in hand, taking notes as Junne tells them about the people who lived here and worked hard to make the place their own. In that moment, a century after the first families arrived in Dearfield, it is a place that still belongs to them.

—Debbie Pitner Moors

Field Notes



STUDY: MORE ATHLETES DOPING THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT

UNC statistician Jay Schaffer and eight other scientists worldwide developed and used a scientific lie-detector test of sorts with 2,167 athletes at two international track and field competitions. Schaffer co-authored the resulting study to determine the probability of doping.

While traditional drug testing through blood and urine analysis typically reveals doping in 1-2 percent of athletes, the tests can fail to detect “cutting-edge doping techniques,” according to the study. Indeed, the statistically proven and validated survey method used by researchers estimated that 44 percent of athletes were doping at the 2011 International Association of Athletics Federation World Championships in Athletics in South Korea and 57 percent were doping in the 2011 Quadrennial Pan-Arab Games in Qatar, the two competitions where they administered their test.

“We were shocked by the results,” say Schaffer, adding the study’s goal is to come up with a better way to measure doping for the study commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).



DAIRY SUPPLEMENT EFFECTIVE POST-EXERCISE FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

A study led by a UNC researcher shows that kefir is an effective post-exercise dairy beverage that won’t cause stomach upset. “The beverage received high scores overall and, except for an improvement in overall liking, we observed no significant differences in physical and psychological feelings before and after participants learned that it contained kefir and had potential health benefits,” said lead investigator Laura K. Stewart, Ph.D., associate professor in UNC’s School of Sport and Exercise Science. Click on the link at unco.edu/news/articles/cancer-milk-supplement-research.aspx to learn more.



UNC RESEARCHERS DEVELOP UNIQUE COMMUNITY SAFETY PROGRAM FOR SOUTH DAKOTA RESERVATION

UNC researchers have developed unique programming for a grant-funded project to address community safety on the Cheyenne River Reservation in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. Assistant Professor of School Psychology David Hulac and graduate assistant Lauren Rankin collaborated on the project with the South Dakota District of the Federal Probation and Pretrial Services (FPPS). South Dakota District of the FPPS funded the project to develop training manuals in order to help prevent crime and reintegrate those who have committed crimes.



BIOLOGY CLASS HELPS PROTECT ENDANGERED PLANTS

Students worked this summer alongside Bureau of Land Management botanist Carol Dawson to collect data aimed at protecting two endangered plants: Osterhout’s Milkvetch and Fenland’s Beardtongue. Fifteen undergraduate students in Associate Professor Mitchell McGlaughlin’s intensive field botany course compiled the data with the help of three graduate students while completing a weeklong portion of the class that takes students into the field to learn about local flora. They spent most of their time in the Middle Park region near Kremmling, Colorado. Students collected data relating to plant abundance, reproductive status and insect damage in long-term monitoring plots. The data is used to determine if the endangered plant populations are increasing, decreasing or stable, which has direct implications for the type of activities that can occur on public lands where the plants grow.



More Field Notes are available at unco.edu/unco magazine

Impact

Continuing a 50-Year Legacy of Teaching Excellence

SHAWN TEBBEN IS THE INAUGURAL ALLEN MCCONNELL ENDOWED CHAIR IN ACCOUNTING FOR THE KENNETH W. MONFORT COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



On the first day of class this fall, students in Principles of Accounting I took a seat in their Kepner Hall classroom and met Shawn Tebben. What they might not have known that first day was what their professor brought to the classroom: 30-plus years of experience in accounting, auditing and risk management. The first Allen McConnell Chair in Accounting, Tebben looks forward to sharing those experiences with her students, hoping to ignite in them a spark for her profession.

“Accounting provides such a great foundation for launching a career and really understanding what makes a business tick,” says Tebben, the former vice president of internal audit for Vail Resorts. “I want to help students understand there are multiple avenues an accounting degree can open up, and having that foundational information so you can ask good questions and know when you’re getting good answers is important for all business majors.”

Tebben says one of the most inspiring things she has experienced so far is the university community’s passion, enthusiasm and commitment to teaching that’s reflected in the Allen McConnell Endowed Chair in Accounting. Over an impressive, nearly 50-year legacy at UNC, Professor Allen McConnell touched many lives through his teaching, connections and mentoring, including those of the alumni who were compelled to establish an endowed chair in honor of their beloved professor.

“Many of my life successes since graduation in 1972 were a result of the classroom learnings, counseling and encouragement I received along the way from Professor McConnell,” says UNC

Foundation board member Cheryl Wenzinger. “He gave us the right educational foundation, and taught us all so much more than just accounting. He nurtured us, helped us find job opportunities, counseled us on our careers ... he went way beyond the classroom responsibilities with his students.”

Wenzinger, fellow UNC Foundation board member Tim Bradley ’80, Greg Anton ’87 and a handful of others led the alumni-driven campaign to raise enough money to announce the chair endowment in 2009 to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Monfort College of Business (MCB), and continued momentum to fully establish the fund.

Reflecting on McConnell’s legacy at UNC, Tebben says she’s also looking forward to expanding and deepening the university’s relationships with community business leaders, accounting and audit firms, Colorado-based businesses, UNC alumni and professional organizations to ensure UNC accounting students have the best opportunities to launch successful, rewarding and impactful careers.

“Now that Shawn is the recipient of the endowed chair funding, we are excited about the future possibilities,” Wenzinger says. “To continue the special interaction and desire for excellence that McConnell, and other business school professors, have instilled in the program and in all of MCB’s students over the years ... MCB is truly a special place for a business degree. The personal connection with professors cannot be underestimated. It makes a difference in students’ lives.”

—Amber Medina



PHOTO BY BARRY LAPOINT

E Komo Mai — Welcome

A CLOSE COMMUNITY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDE UNC'S HAWAII STUDENTS A WARM WELCOME



Future educator and recent graduate Jewel Mahoe '17 found a home away from home when she enrolled at UNC. The close, community feel of the university and the availability of financial aid has long made UNC a top choice college among Hawaii students.

Forget, for a moment, what you think about Hawaii — the vacation paradise, hula skirts and sunny beaches — and it becomes less surprising that a number of locals leave the islands to attend college in Greeley.

Instead, think of Hawaii like a close-knit community. That's how recent graduate Jewel Mahoe '17 sees it, and so do hundreds of former UNC students like her. To Mahoe, Hawaii is home — a close community of family and friends.

"Everybody knows everybody. I can't go to the supermarket without seeing someone I know," she says.

Mahoe, raised in Hawaii, earned her degree in education. Her choice to travel 3,000 miles for college wasn't about leaving her community behind; it was about finding it in a new place. It was also about affordability. She found both at UNC.

"Originally, I wasn't really sure where I was going to school. I had some options — University of Hawaii, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Chaminade — a lot of colleges in Hawaii that I was looking at."

Mahoe hadn't planned to leave Hawaii. Many of the state's high school students stay, a choice Mahoe attributes to Hawaii's family-based culture. For some students, moving to the mainland means giving up this sense of community. But Mahoe's perspective changed when she met UNC Director of Admissions Sean Broghammer during a Hawaii college fair event.

CAMPUS TRADITION (PICTURED LEFT)

Hosted each spring, the annual Ha'aheo Hawaii Club Luau is a favorite campus tradition. Club members organize the event to share their love and appreciation for the culture, traditions and Spirit of Aloha with the UNC community.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

More than 1,000 alumni currently live in Hawaii, many originally from the state. The UNC Alumni Association's Hawaii Alumni Group keeps these alumni connected to the UNC Hawaii community. Alumni volunteers help UNC recruit future students, fund the Aloha Scholarship and send supplies to campus for the university's annual Ha'aheo Hawaii Club lu'au.

 Connect to the alumni group at facebook.com/groups/UNCBearsHawaii

At first Mahoe thought Colorado would be too far and UNC too big of a school, yet Broghammer sold her on the university's medium size and Greeley's community feel. He also told her she wouldn't be alone.

"He is brilliant, and he said, 'You know, a lot of Hawaii students come to UNC.' And that the Hawaii community at UNC was really close," Mahoe says.

This fall, UNC enrolled 106 students from Hawaii, 28 of whom are first-time freshmen.

Broghammer and the UNC admissions office work with alumni to ensure that the university remains a top-choice school for Hawaii's college-ready students. Not only has their involvement kept a steady number of Hawaii students enrolled each year, but they also ensure that campus traditions like the Asian/Pacific American Student Services' Ha'aheo Hawaii Club's annual lu'au provide students with cultural and community ties back home.

Learning about this community helped Mahoe see UNC as a college option, but it was the university's participation in the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE — pronounced "woo-ee") that made it possible.

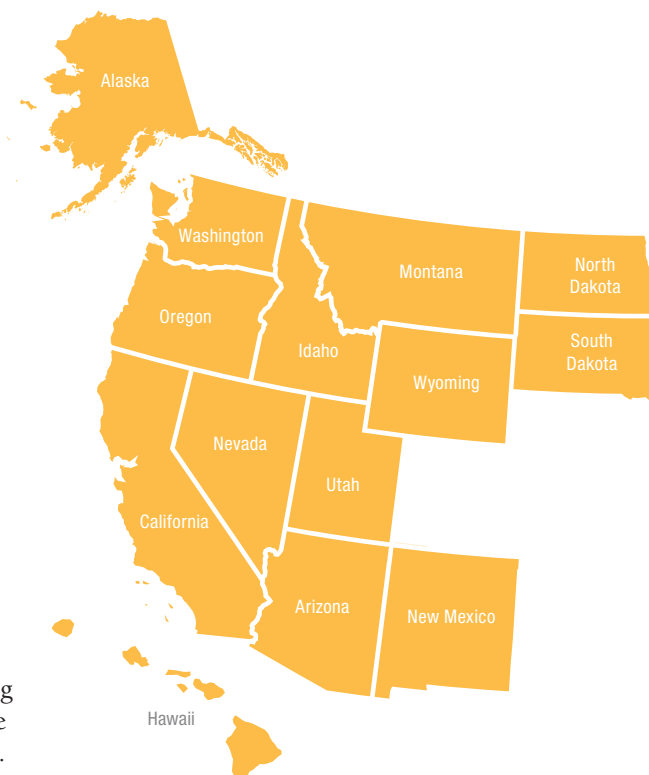
WUE is a regional tuition-reciprocity agreement that enables students from among 15 western states to enroll in a participating institution at 1½ times the resident tuition rate. For UNC WUE students, this amounts to more than \$5,000 in tuition savings each year.

"WUE tuition actually made what I was paying for school lower than I would have paid in Hawaii."

Along with WUE, Hawaii students are eligible for UNC's traditional financial aid programs, including the Aloha Scholarship, which is awarded to a Hawaii undergraduate student each year.

Today Mahoe is pursuing her master's in education at Vanderbilt University. While she is excited about the next stage in her career, it was UNC's institutional support and a familiar community that first welcomed Mahoe to the mainland.

—Lyndsey Crum



WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE (WUE) REGION

Students from these Western states qualify for discounted tuition (1½ times the in-state rate) at UNC. About 800 WUE students enrolled at UNC in fall 2017 compared to about 600 nonresident students from states outside WUE.

- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- North Dakota
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Utah
- Washington
- Wyoming

Testing in TOTALITY

By Debbie Pitner Moors

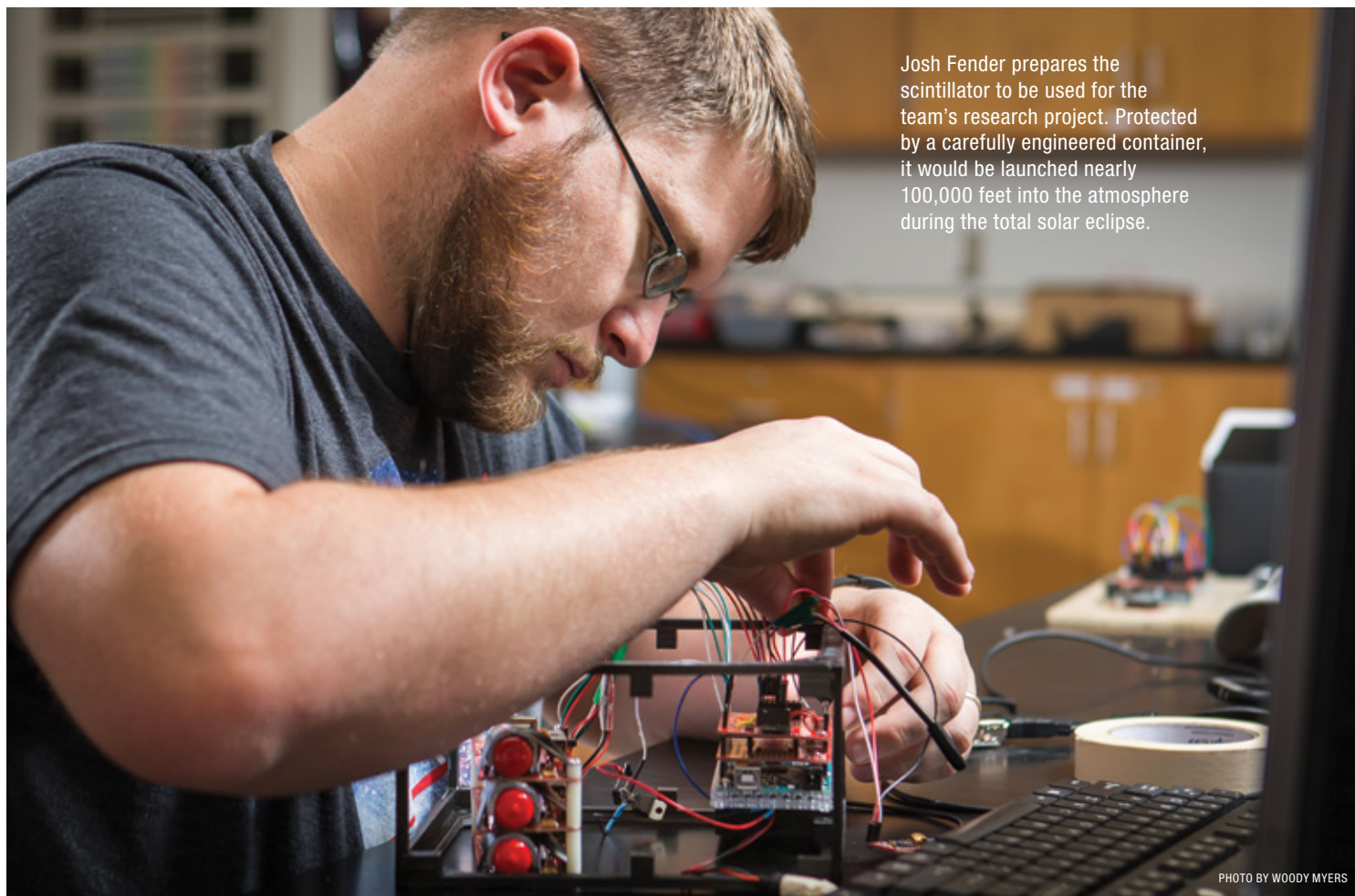
When the moon crossed the sun's path, UNC students were waiting to shed new light on fast-moving muons

Before fall classes began in August, a hard-and-fast deadline already loomed for UNC seniors Josh Fender, John Ringer and Justin Morse. At precisely 11:46 a.m. Aug. 21, the first day of classes for the semester, the moon and sun would cross paths for a total solar eclipse.

When that moment arrived, their research would intersect with the much-anticipated celestial event. There would be no second chances if their 2.8-pound payload wasn't aboard a high-altitude balloon launched shortly before the eclipse. The student-led project — more than 18 months in the making — was one of six from Colorado colleges and universities chosen by the NASA-funded Colorado Space Grant Consortium.

"To me, it's like a child playing with Legos," says Fender, who plans to teach high school physics. "Anyone can read the instructions and build a kit, but being allowed to create something new, from scratch, meant that we were able to build new connections and discover new ideas that we never would have found had we had our project dictated to us."

Allowing their students the space to develop the project from start to finish was purposeful, says Assistant Professor Charles Kuehn, who advises the team, along with colleagues Cynthia Galovich, Matthew Semak and Robert Walch. "We try to be as hands-off as possible. We're there for support for ideas for things like that, but for the most part we really want the (message to) students (to be), 'This is your thing.'"



Josh Fender prepares the scintillator to be used for the team's research project. Protected by a carefully engineered container, it would be launched nearly 100,000 feet into the atmosphere during the total solar eclipse.

PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

Student John Ringer subjected the scintillator to numerous tests before launch. It was dropped, submerged and frozen to simulate high-altitude conditions, wet weather and the long drop back to earth.

MINDING THEIR MUONS

Fender explains that the team had two goals as they designed their project. First, they wanted to build a detector that could study muons at a high altitude. Second, they wanted to create a detector that was inexpensive enough for high school students to repeat the experiment.

So, what exactly are muons (pronounced mew-ons), and why focus on them? Subatomic particles (smaller than atoms), muons are created when radiation from space collides with molecules in Earth's atmosphere.

"What makes them so interesting," Fender says, "is that they travel at very close to the speed of light. Interesting things happen to the time and distances observed by both the object moving that fast and those that are moving much slower (us)."

He says the team wanted to isolate the muons from the other types of ionizing radiation. "From everything that we saw, no one else has attempted this at the altitudes our balloons travel to."

And isolating muons becomes particularly interesting during an eclipse.

"It's currently believed that most of these cosmic rays (that collide to form muons) are coming from everything besides the sun," says Ringer. "During the solar eclipse, we're going to look for a change when there's line-of-sight blockage of the sun by the moon. Do we get different data than when the sun isn't blocked? Are most of these cosmic rays coming from outside the sun? That's what we're trying to answer."

Engineering a device that could collect that data—and survive to tell the tale—consumed hours, not only during the prior academic year but over the past summer as well.

Once it was securely tucked into its carrier, the entire package had to weigh less than 2.8 pounds before launch.

“We’ve put in a lot of time to try to figure out how to make this all work and just get reliable data back,” Fender says.

They also had to make it all work on a small budget.

They used Geiger counter technology with a scintillator to detect radiation particles and incorporated a micro SD card to collect data. To protect and surround the device they needed an enclosure—it had to be airtight, lightweight and capable of withstanding the impact of returning to Earth. The team had to ensure the payload stayed under NASA’s required 2.8 pounds, which meant switching from using PVC to a lighter, 3-D printed protective frame. And all of that meant testing, testing—and more testing.

Tests included two launches (one reaching 98,000 feet), as well as vacuum tests of the device’s airtight enclosure to ensure there wouldn’t be electrical shorts as the balloon reached its expected height of about 100,000 feet.

They also made several refinements to the enclosure to protect the components from a hard landing. On the way down, the balloon can reach a speed of Mach 1 before the parachute deploys, Fender says.

Each test had its own challenges. In fall 2016, while testing the device’s impact-proof container, Fender and Assistant Professor Semak were working on the Ross Hall roof, totally immersed in their testing. So focused, says Fender, that they weren’t aware that a presidential campaign rally was taking place on campus. Their work on the roof soon drew the attention of Secret Service members in the area, and Fender and Semak found themselves explaining their work to some intensely interested and thorough agents.

Checking, rechecking, testing and re-testing were critical to the project’s viability, and it was close attention to details that Fender says was a memorable part of the project.

“I remember most all of the smaller milestones along the way, like how excited the team was when our sensors worked for the first time. Seeing all of the pieces fit together exactly how we planned. Shaving microseconds off our software run time to give us more accurate data. They all seem kind of silly and trivial, but it was all of the small parts that made the launch successful.”

LAUNCH DAY AND BEYOND

For most, prepping for the eclipse meant finding a pair of eclipse glasses. For the launch team, it involved long hours (sometimes more than 12 hours daily), intense team problem-solving and hectic testing.

“The night before the launch, I didn’t sleep,” Fender says. “I was up all night running last-minute diagnostic tests and checking to make sure everything was functioning for the 20th time.”



PHOTO BY CHARLES KUEHN

“Honestly, ‘Did we turn it on?’ was what I was thinking when we finally launched it.”

—Josh Fender

Exhausted but excited, he and Ringer arrived at the launch site in Guernsey, Wyoming, by 9 a.m. the day before the eclipse. Foremost on their minds was the weather at the site. They knew that if the winds were too strong, the balloon could be blown out of the path of totality.

Denver-based Edge of Space Sciences (EOSS) handled the launch logistics in Guernsey. The UNC payload would be attached to the second of two balloons launched by EOSS the morning of the eclipse.

“Our payload was on the second balloon,” Fender says. “While they were blowing up the first balloon the wind picked up like crazy—so hard that it popped the first balloon.”

EOSS repaired and relaunched the first balloon from a more sheltered location, which led to a 10-minute delay getting the second balloon and its payloads launched. Then, at 10:50 a.m.—a little less than an hour to totality—it was in the air.

“Honestly, ‘Did we turn it on?’ was what I was thinking when we finally launched it,” Fender says.

Once the balloon was in the air and all the chaotic work of recent weeks was out of their hands, they took time to enjoy watching the eclipse.

“It was one of the most beautiful things I have ever witnessed,” Fender says. “As totality approached, the temperature began to drop and the wind picked up even more. About 10 seconds before totality, people started a countdown. When totality occurred, everyone cheered, and we took off

Ready for launch in Guernsey, Wyoming.



PHOTO BY CHARLES KUEHN

the eclipse glasses. We could clearly see the corona and several brighter stars. It was beautiful.”

As eclipse viewers enjoyed the sight, UNC’s device soared above them, recording the eclipse from a whole different perspective. According to EOSS reports, the balloon with UNC’s payload reached an altitude of nearly 96,000 feet, rising at an average of 702 feet per minute. It remained aloft for more than two hours.

“We have our preliminary data back,” Fender reports. “It lines up exactly how we predicted it would. Everything lines up beautifully with our theoretical data.”

Data in hand, the team is compiling results and writing an academic paper. They’ll present their findings at next year’s American Astronomical Society meeting in Denver, and will also publish a how-to guide for high schools and others interested in pursuing such projects on a small budget. (By reusing items, engineering their own pieces and finding inexpensive sources for materials, the team spent about \$500 during the course of the project — compared to similar projects that can cost several thousand.)

In the report and the how-to guide, between the lines of a technical how-to and hard data, there’s another lesson for high school students: the pure wonder of designing, exploring and persevering through the steps of scientific research.

“This is the coolest stuff in the world,” Ringer says. “We get to play around with electronics, we get experience doing engineering of electronic and structural circuits, and we get to measure things people haven’t measured before. It’s just doing science.” **UNC**



PHOTO BY JOE FAHEY

THE ECLIPSE ALUMNI REUNION

When it came time to plan travel for the 2017 Great American Eclipse, 1973 alumnus Joe Fahey wanted his best Bears with him. Fahey’s trip was more than three decades in the making, since he and fellow alum Clark Bouton witnessed their first total eclipse in 1979. The pair, along with UNC friends John Ricketts, Robb Audette, Jason Moeller and Peter Marcino made the trek from Greeley to Glendo, Wyoming. As a photographer from Apache Junction, Arizona, Fahey captured the reunion and the eclipse in a series of images to share with *UNC Magazine*. “If you want a life-changing experience, try and get into the path of totality. This will be my fourth eclipse and they still give me shivers!”



To listen to Professor Charles Kuehn talk about solar eclipses, visit UNC’s Bear in Mind podcast page at unco.edu/bear-in-mind

By Dan England

BEARS *in the Park*

UNC's ties to Estes, Rocky Mountain National Park span generations as today's students continue to trek west for recreation, education and the Colorado experience

Photography Courtesy of UNC Archives
and UNC Outdoor Pursuits



UNC students have been taking excursions to Rocky Mountain National Park since the early 1900s, a practice that continues today with experiential learning opportunities, new student orientation and Outdoor Pursuit activities.



From a brochure advertising Colorado State Teachers College's summer school for teachers in 1923: "The teacher wears her life away giving, forever giving, the fineness of her soul to others, dreaming of that nobler social order that is to be, struggling to make herself a part of the progress of the ages, rejoicing in the triumphs of those who have been moulded (sic) by her influence, but seldom taking time to renew those deep sources of being out of which come the power to serve."

The flowery text flows side-by-side with romantic black-and-white photos of mist-shrouded mountains and lakes. The summer camp drew teachers from throughout the country to respite and rejuvenation in the Rocky Mountains of Estes Park. It was one of the university's earliest ventures there, but students, faculty and alumni have had many connections to the area since then, aimed at teaching and learning, conducting research and making memories.

Lofty Learning at Camp Olympus

In 1904, when Zachariah Snyder first began to develop his idea for a summer school for adults, Rocky Mountain National Park wouldn't be established for nine more years. But its appeal as a place that could offer a retreat in an inspiring setting was already clear.

Snyder, the university's second president, quickly developed a reputation as a national leader in education, says Associate Professor Mark Anderson, the government documents librarian and one of UNC's historians. Snyder recognized early in his administration that Estes Park was a big selling point for recruitment, but he also saw the inspirational value of learning and exploring the mountains and meadows in and around Estes Park. The summer school's popularity grew from a daytrip program to a residential program in the institution's newly built Camp Olympus lodge.

"Camp Olympus furnishes an ideal spot for the tired teacher who seeks wholesome recreation, rest and study under the inspiring natural and social conditions," the brochure reads.

Named Colorado State Teachers College Mountain School, summer classes ranged from ornithology to music. Tuition for each class was \$8, and students could choose two-, four- or six-week sessions. Suitcases were acceptable for personal items, but bulky trunks were stored in Greeley for five cents a day to limit the freight being trucked from Greeley to Camp Olympus.

Though the school sold the camp in 1937 (it became a hotel, in operation today as Olympus Lodge), it left behind lessons that still hold true today. "The fact that the work is interesting and is done with pleasure rather than annoyance does not deter from its educational value," the brochure reads.



Then, as now, students follow Highway 34 from Greeley to Estes Park as it twists its way along the Big Thompson River.



See these photos and other vintage images in the 1923 brochure for CSTC Mountain School at unco.edu/magazine

This panoramic view of the Rocky Mountains shows where Camp Olympus is situated in relation to Estes Park. Image from the collection of Bobbie Heistercamp.

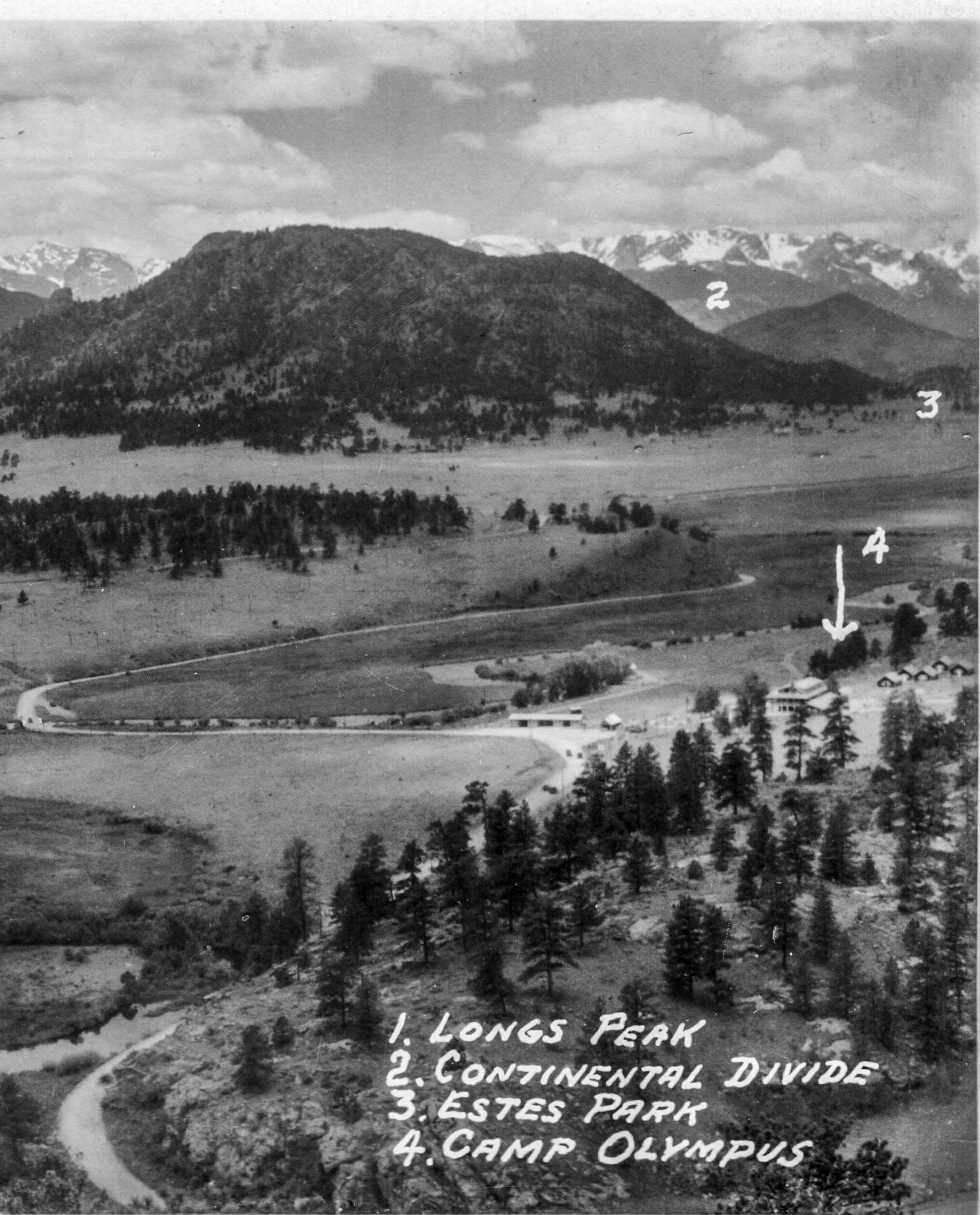


Students in the park then and now. The black-and-white photo was used in a 1930 brochure advertising the summer program; the color photo was taken during new student orientation. Courtesy of Outdoor Pursuits.

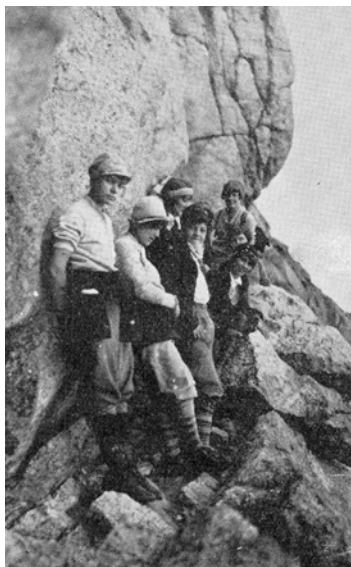
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1. LONGS PEAK
2. CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
3. ESTES PARK
4. CAMP OLYMPUS



The mountains have always offered Bears the perfect learning environment — whether they were practicing naturalist skills in the 1930s or getting to know classmates during orientation at Old Man Mountain this past summer.

Take a walk through UNC history with Mark Anderson's and Jay Trask's pictorial chronology, *University of Northern Colorado*, which pulls images from the University Libraries Archives. (Arcadia Publishing, 2010.)

Rix Rendezvous

Robin Rix Blakey's generation had their college careers at UNC interrupted by World War II. But instead of pulling classmates apart, the time away made them closer. Hoping to foster that connection after they graduated, Blakey (from the Class of 1947), not only acted as the president of the alumni association, but he started a reunion that carried on for decades.

Blakey's grandson, Jason Brinkley, who graduated from UNC in 2004, says his grandfather took great pride in the reunion, which they called the Rix Rendezvous.

"He loved to talk about it," Brinkley says.

Blakey started the reunion in the 1960s, Brinkley says, in Estes Park, and it was held at the Lazy T for many years, on the border of Rocky Mountain National Park. The gatherings were held well into the 90s. As classmates died, so did the reunion, but at its height as many as 40 people attended. It was one of the few reunions that seemed to get larger during the years.

This was way before Facebook, which allows you to enter an event and invite 150 people with a click. Blakey had to keep in touch by telephone and keep a list going.

The reunions were usually not much more than old friends catching up, telling old stories and drinking a few beers, but they were the highlight of his year, "other than seeing his grandchildren," Brinkley says and laughs.

The reunions apparently meant a lot to others as well. When Blakey died in 1998, those same 40 or so alumni attended his funeral, and they started an endowment fund that bears his name.

Self-Study on Old Man Mountain

When Jediah Cummins attended UNC, he thought he was going to college. He didn't know he would also get a chance to go to summer camp.

When he was a sophomore working as a resident adviser in 2004-05, he attended a staff retreat at Old Man Mountain. The place has an iconic history with UNC. Probably thousands of people in hundreds of different groups spent time on the property, which is on the border of Rocky Mountain National Park. But

Cummins fondly remembers it as a summer camp for slightly older folks, as well as the many students and faculty who would spend a few days up there.

"It was a great bonding experience," he says. "We hiked and sat by a campfire and had s'mores and stayed up way too late. It was a very Colorado thing."

For Native Americans, it was a vision quest site for an estimated 3,000 years, maybe as late as the 1800s. Tribes such as the Ute, Comanche, Shoshone, Apache, Cheyenne and Arapaho may have used it for the journey that helps people find their spirit guide, which can be an animal or an element like thunder. Since 1998, UNC professor emeritus and researcher Bob Brunswig has identified 1,100 sacred and cultural sites across some 38,000 acres of the park. Sally McBeth, professor of Anthropology and the department chair, has gone to Old Man Mountain with tribal elders and has researched the site. She's tried to spread the word about the area being a sacred site to teach others to respect it, which means, essentially, leaving things the way they are and keeping it clean. Her anthropology club has also used the site for a retreat. It wasn't lost on her that her club was essentially doing what those same Native Americans were doing centuries ago, although not nearly to the same spiritual degree.

The U.S. Forest Service had a ranger cabin up there and eventually donated the site to UNC in 1956. Since then, UNC faculty, staff and students have had access to the site and dormitory, using it for group gatherings, a research base and outdoor learning. Outdoor Pursuits uses it frequently for student-orientation trips (see LaUNCH, below) and for courses such as a wilderness first-responder class and an avalanche survival course. Outdoor Pursuits will also offer two snowshoeing trips and two hikes in the spring. The university also uses Old Man Mountain to introduce students (from Colorado residents to international students) to the Rocky Mountains. "It's amazing to share the experience with their peers," says Whitney Dyer, assistant director of Outdoor Pursuits. "It's so special for everyone involved."

It turned out to be special for Cummins. He's since been there dozens of times and



UNC's Outdoor Pursuits program provides students with equipment like snowshoes and backpacks and teaches outdoor skills through workshops that range from survival to s'mores making.

credits his time on Old Man Mountain with his decision to come back to UNC and work as assistant director of housing services.

"It really reflects the spirit of Colorado," he says, "and the spirit of UNC."

Last spring, UNC's Board of Trustees authorized UNC President Kay Norton to explore the possibility of selling Old Man Mountain. A sale would help ensure future stewardship of the property and land, and stipulate continued use of the grounds for university functions, Norton told the board.

LaUNCH-ing New Students

In the raft, Tarrin Flaherty forgot how to be socially awkward. She was just about to start her first year of college, and the Colorado Springs resident was nervous about that. She doesn't do well in crowds of new people. But then, through LaUNCH, a freshman-orientation program that groups incoming students together in the outdoors, she found herself in a raft, staring down rapids fed from the peaks of Rocky Mountain National Park. She quickly forgot she was among strangers. These people were her partners. They were her lifesavers. They were paddling through those waves together.

"It was pretty intense," Flaherty says. "Someone definitely fell off. But we got him back."

LaUNCH offers students opportunities to explore Rocky Mountain National Park or Never Summer Wilderness. New students spend nearly a week whitewater rafting, rock climbing and doing some community service in the park.

Erin Datterri-Saboski, director of new student orientation, started the program three years ago after having some success at what she calls an "extended orientation" at the University of Indiana, where she worked before joining UNC. When she wanted to build something like that at



UNC's new "LaUNCH" program gives new students a chance to get to know other freshmen before school starts in the fall.

UNC, all she had to do was look west.

"There weren't many exciting things in Indiana, but man, we have these mountains here," she says. "There's a great resource."

Putting students in challenging situations in those mountains, such as sleeping in the same tent and facing near-death experiences (or at least it felt that way to Flaherty) helps them make fast friends. As Flaherty says, even a few familiar, friendly faces can help make a big campus feel like home.

"You don't know a soul," Datterri-Saboski says, "but then you've done this intense experience with these people, and that's an instant bond."

The extended experiences cost extra (the trip to Estes was \$225) but offer a more in-depth journey than the two-day orientation program offered to incoming UNC students. Only about 30-40 students make the trip — a fraction of the 2,000 incoming freshmen at UNC each year — but there are some amazing outcomes, Datterri-Saboski says.

This year, she added a chance for the students to tour UNC's arts programs, in case checking out paintings, rather than thrill seeking on the rapids, helps some students bond with their new best friends. Flaherty, no longer a newcomer on campus, led the arts trip this year. It was cool, she says, to help other students make connections like she once did.

"Now those students come up to me and give me awkward hugs." **UNC**

The Professional Football Writers of America selected Ed Werder as the winner of the 2017 Dick McCann Award, given annually to honor reporters with distinguished careers covering the sport. Werder accepts the award at the Hall of Fame Enshrinement ceremony in Aug. 5 in Canton, Ohio.



A CAREER WORTHY OF CANTON

By Lyndsey Crum
Photography Courtesy of Ed Werder

Ed Werder, honored at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, always knew he wanted a career in sports journalism.

A change in the play call can be a game changer if you're willing to seize the opportunity. Ask NFL insider and UNC alumnus Ed Werder '82.

Werder reported from the sideline of the 1986 AFC Championship Game when Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway led the offense in a 98-yard, 15-play comeback to tie the game against the Cleveland Browns. "The Drive" was Elway's opportunity to seize momentum and beat the Browns 23–20 in an overtime win.

"They had already taken the trophy to the Browns' locker room," Werder recalls. "They had to hustle it back. It's the moment (Elway) became a legend."

"The Drive" is one of Werder's favorite memories from this 30-plus year career as a sports journalist. A career that includes coverage of 28 Super Bowls, countless playoff and Monday Night Football games, and game-day mileage spanning Lambeau Field in Green Bay to the Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium.

Like many impressive careers, Werder's role as one of the nation's top sports journalists was a series of seized opportunities and a commitment to doing what he loves.

FROM BEAR TO BEAT WRITER AND BROADCASTER

Although originally from Florida, Werder's family moved to Colorado during his youth. He attended Longmont High School and began working for the local paper.

"Since grade school, I knew what I wanted to be," he says. "While the other kids put their heads on their desks during breaks, I had a pen and paper out, making up games in my mind. And when we played outside, we would announce the game while we played it."

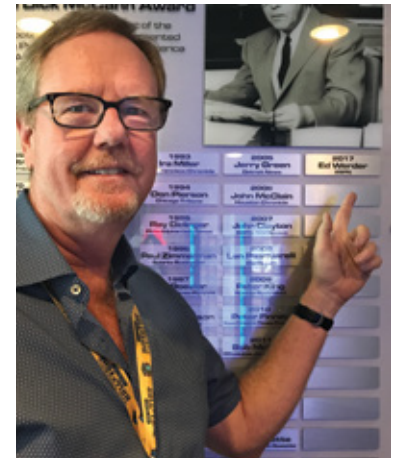
When it was time for college, Werder had a choice between CU and UNC.

"I applied to CU but they didn't have the broadcast facilities I was looking for, and I wanted to play tennis."

Werder found both at UNC. He enrolled in 1978, played a season of tennis and began gaining experience as a sports writer. He followed the columns and articles of Denver's well-known sports journalists of the time and focused on emulating their style and career path.

"I may have been the only kid on my floor to have *The Denver Post* delivered to Wiebking Hall."

With professional role models in mind, Werder took on a student assignment with the *UNC Mirror*; his first story was coverage for a UNC wrestling match. By his last semester, Werder had enough bylines to his name to earn an internship with 9News.



AN ILLUSTRIOUS LIST

Werder's name was added to a roster of McCann Award winners that includes other ESPN reporters John Clayton, Len Pasquarelli and Chris Mortensen.



“I didn’t get a job out of it, but I gained a lot of experience, including an interview with famed racing driver Mario Andretti.”

Following graduation, Werder took a position with the *Arizona Daily Star*. It wasn’t his dream job. It wasn’t even a writing assignment, but he put his head down and got to work until a new opportunity emerged.

“I felt I had been promised the first writing opportunity on staff, but was passed over for a former colleague of the sports editor,” remembers Werder. “As a result, I was determined to leave and write elsewhere. I returned to Colorado and took the position Rick Reilly vacated at the *Boulder Daily Camera*.”

For five years, Werder covered Colorado football for the *Camera*. From high school and college games to pro games with the Denver Broncos, Werder quickly made a name for himself with his ability to get the inside scoop in Colorado sports. All the while, he was ready to seize the opportunity to join a larger newspaper.

Married with two children, Werder was somewhat settled in Colorado. And when it came time for a change, Werder planned to join the sports staff at *The Denver Post* to cover CU, but an opportunity to leverage two job offers landed Werder and his young family in Fort Worth.

He began as the Dallas Cowboys beat writer for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, then moved on to *The Dallas Morning News*. Werder covered the Cowboys during the mid-1990s when the team was a household name for Super Bowl wins and had one of the most shocking coaching changes in NFL history. He also took on assignments with the *Orlando Sentinel*, *The National*, and *Sports Illustrated*.

By 1998, the former *UNC Mirror* had writer earned a broadcast spot with ESPN.

“I took my tapes up in a plastic bag to Bristol when I interviewed with (former ESPN executive) John Walsh” in Connecticut, Werder said during an NFL segment on the broadcaster. “And I walked into his office, and the first thing that was said to me was, ‘I just want you to know that we think you’re great, and we want to hire you.’ So I took those tapes and pitched them out the door because the only thing they could do at that point was cost me the job.”

From 1998 until 2017, Werder was the face and voice who NFL fans, especially Cowboy fans, tuned into each weekend.

“They were long days,” he recalls. “You were the first to arrive and the last to leave.”

Working six days a week, plus travel, Werder hustled to create original material for multiple ESPN shows. For nearly 20 years, he focused on building relationships with team players and owners, looking for the inside story to each week’s match-up.

“You’re always on the clock.”

Until the clock stopped. On April 26, Werder announced that the network laid him off. He was one of a long list of on-air talent and staff let go last spring.

As shocking as the news came for Werder and NFL fans, he never lost focus of his career ambition — being a sports journalist — or the connections that made it possible.

EMBRACING CHANGE AND OPPORTUNITY

Fans and followers of Werder know that he’s an active Twitter user. They also know that @EDwerderRFA’s two favorite subjects are football and Little Henry, Werder’s young grandson.

Werder's 34-year career has brought him shoulder-to-shoulder with a long list of athletes, including Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott and Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman.

Werder often takes to Twitter to share personal and professional experiences. Six weeks after the ESPN layoff, Werder shared some unexpected news with his followers.

"Thanks to everyone for all the thoughtful notes about the HOF Dick McCann Award," he wrote. "I truly appreciate each of them."

In June, the Pro Football Hall of Fame named Werder the 2017 McCann Award winner, the highest honor given by the league to a journalist, based on quality of coverage over time. "He represents the journalistic model in which every dogged reporter methodically turns over every stone in pursuit of the facts," says his friend and former colleague, Chris Mortensen, who won the award in 2016. "He loves journalism, and he loves covering the NFL, exceeded only by his love of family. I'm reasonably certain these are the things that motivate Ed."

Winners are recognized in the Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, and during the annual NFL Hall of Fame ceremony, which Werder attended in August.

"I'm grateful to my peers who voted for me and to the other outstanding finalists," Werder shared in his induction speech. "I appreciate every entity that hired me, every colleague who collaborated, every competitor who forced me to give my all."

The award was a bittersweet recognition of a career unexpectedly halted. But thanks to Werder's Twitter coverage and deep connections within the NFL, it wouldn't be halted for long.

Today, Werder (who remains under contract to ESPN through August 2019) refers to himself as a "restricted free agent." He's doing five national radio broadcasts of NFL games for Westwood One and actively provides commentary on the NFL from Twitter. He knows that the emergence of social media sites like Twitter have changed how journalists report the news and how audiences react. Werder has embraced those changes, launching the *Doomsday Podcast* with colleague Matt Mosley.

On the podcast, weekly episodes provide an insider view of the Dallas Cowboys, with topics ranging from game-day recaps to the unexpected cultural commentary concerning the national anthem. The *Doomsday Podcast* covers it all and fulfills Werder's drive to continue evolving as a sports journalist.



"You have to be willing to experiment and embrace the unexpected," he says. "The podcast is one of the few outlets where I can do what I want."

Werder uses Twitter to help disseminate each week's episode, keep up on fan reactions, and throw in some family time with Little Henry. He's also shown an openness on Twitter to connect and seize new opportunities when the time is right.

So when it came time for UNC to reconnect, there is little surprise that the opportunity came through Twitter.

Following an on-air interview with 104.3-FM "The Fan," UNC took a shot at getting Werder's attention. In the span of a few tweets and direct messages, one of UNC's most renowned journalism graduates was sitting down with us to share a cup of coffee and about the role that UNC played in building his career.

Werder recalled his favorite professors and the classes that helped him take the first steps in his career. He even recalled some of his shenanigans on the intramural hockey team, and how he had lived down the hall from his high school girlfriend, and now wife, Jill.

A few weeks after connecting, Werder was back in his element. Standing on the sideline prior to the UNC vs. CU football game on Sept. 16, he broadcast live during halftime with 1310-AM KFKA, taking every opportunity to share UNC with his 200,000-plus Twitter followers.

"My UNC education was the foundation of everything," he says. "I always tell people to take advantage of the opportunities that you have." **UNC**

 Follow Ed on Twitter @EdwerderRFA

Into the Arctic

By Jaquelyn Zubrzycki

Professor Jimmy Dunn and a crew of five students head north for summer research and discovery

Expedition members traveled through the icy headwaters of the Coppermine River. Pictured left to right: Jane Allen, Leo Sinigaglia, Emily Doerner, Rusbel Contreras Jr., Denise Rettedal and Don Cleason.

Life above the Arctic Circle isn't always as cold as you would expect. After a six-week kayak trip through the Canadian Arctic this summer, Jane Allen, a senior at UNC, can attest to that.

"The day we crossed into the Arctic Circle, I was wearing a tank top," she says.

During the short nights' few hours of darkness, Allen felt a chill in her tent. Otherwise, the temperatures were in the mild 40s, 50s and even 60s.

Allen was one of five UNC students who joined James "Jimmy" Dunn, a professor and chair of the department of Geography and Geographic Information Sciences (GIS), along a 290-mile river trip on Canada's Coppermine River, during which they conducted research about how a changing climate is affecting spruce trees. Their findings: Spruce trees in this region are beginning to grow farther north than in the past, aided by temperatures that are, on average, getting warmer.



The students were following a route Dunn traveled 40 years ago. Notes from the previous trip allowed the students to compare data from 1977 to what they found on their trip this summer.

The group experienced a wild and inspiring landscape and pushed their bodies to their physical limits, sometimes covering as many as 40 miles in a day. Now that they've returned, they will visit schools around Colorado in hopes of sharing the importance and excitement of exploring and studying geography.

A shifting tree line

In Colorado, the tree line is often discussed in terms of altitude. At above 11,000 feet, the average temperature in July is below 50 degrees Fahrenheit and trees don't grow. In the Arctic, the mean temperature is also below 50 degrees. As you head north, trees become sparse, and those that are growing are thinner and shorter.

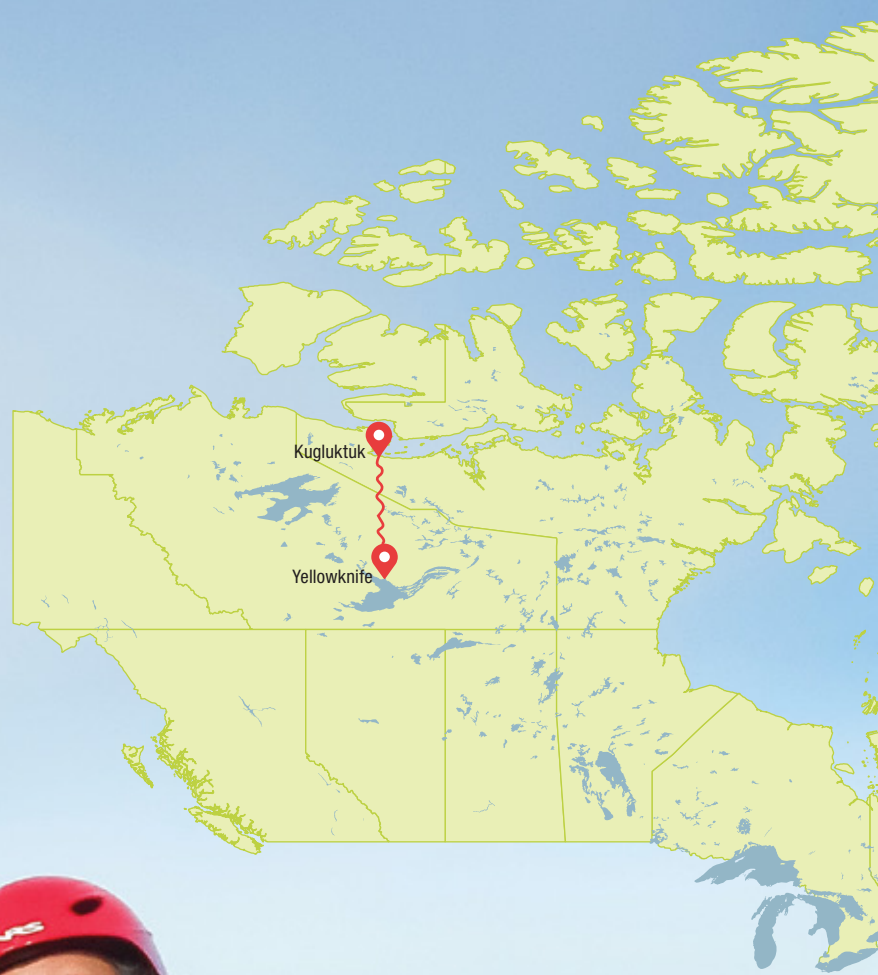




PHOTO BY JANE ALLEN



PHOTO BY DON CLEASON

Top: Dunn and Cleason scouting frigid rapids near the Arctic Circle.
Above: The expedition reaches the Arctic Circle and records data on trees.

Dunn predicted that, as global temperatures have risen, trees would be growing farther north than before and would be producing viable seeds and seedlings.

“If the world’s climate is changing, and the far north is predicted to be warmer than ever before, we should see plants responding,” Dunn says. And the Arctic’s temperature has been increasing, according to a number of sources—including the Danish Meteorological Group, which has been tracking temperatures above 80 degrees latitude for more than 50 years.

In a cold environment, spruce trees survive by forming genetically identical clones. The clones form in clusters, which can survive for hundreds of years.

But in warmer temperatures, new, genetically distinct seedlings are able to form. The seedlings grow farther away from their parent trees and stand as single trees.

On this summer’s trip, Dunn and the students observed spruce and also collected spruce cones from different latitudes. The students kept journals of their observations and compared them to Dunn’s notes from the 1977 trip.

The group found that spruce trees do seem to be responding to a warmer climate: Spruce seedlings were growing 70 miles north of where they were spotted 40 years ago, with some seedlings even growing north of the Arctic Circle. The group also



The team stops for a group photo where the river has pushed a large piece of ice onto the banks.

brought seeds back to Colorado to study whether they are viable, which would provide more evidence that spruce are responding to a warmer environment.

Dunn says the findings from this trip are preliminary, and that there is a need for more study of changing tree lines in the Arctic.

Pristine landscapes

The trip started in Yellowknife, on Great Slave Lake in northern Canada, and ended at an Inuit village called Kugluktuk. The trip took the group from a boreal forest into arctic tundra, and eventually to the Arctic Ocean.

They departed on June 12 and returned on July 2.

A lot has changed since 1977: Dunn's first trip was before GPS and cell phones. "We were navigating with these old-fashioned things called maps," Dunn says.

Even with changes in technology and a trip leader who has now journeyed down arctic rivers more than a dozen times, preparations for this summer's trip took nearly two years. The group—Dunn, Don Cleason, Denise Rettedal, Emily Doerner, Rusbel Contreras Jr., Gretl Galgon, Léo Sinigaglia and Allen—sewed packs and skirts for their boats. They gathered enough food to provide 4,000 calories a day for each paddler.

All that preparation allowed them to witness an environment many people never experience: wolves, swans, musk ox and grizzly bears. Fields of wild berries. Water so clean it can be consumed without filtration.

"The amount of ice you'd see melting and breaking off and falling into the water was truly amazing," Allen says. "It changed my perspective."

Don Cleason (left) and Jane Allen (right) work their way along an ice jam on the Coppermine River. The large sheets of ice can remain all summer.



"I don't think there's a more profound way to learn than to do something like this."

—Professor Jimmy Dunn

Bringing it home

Now that they have returned from their trip, the students will serve as "ambassadors of geography" in Colorado high schools. Each student will give 10 talks, during which they'll share photos from their trip and information about the research they conducted.

Dunn's hope is that hearing from college students will spark the teens' interest. He says many young people perceive geography to be a dead subject—memorizing capitals and the names of places—and that K-12 schools too often reinforce that idea.

"It's relevant and vibrant," he says, and the career prospects are good. Geographers can help places prepare for floods or work with government agencies around the world.

Allen agrees. "Having high school students see people who are in their college years being able to go out and do these things ... will really get them excited to pursue geography."

For Allen and Dunn, river trips like this summer's have inspired a deep desire to explore and study. Dunn says that he is already planning two trips next year to study invasive species along Colorado rivers.

"I don't think there's a more profound way to learn than to do something like this," Dunn says. He hopes UNC increasingly embraces experiential learning.

Allen, too, has caught the exploring bug. "It made me really interested in research and field work, and I fell in love with kayaking. ... it was by far one of the coolest things I've ever done," she says. "It was terrifying but also liberating." **UNC**

A diagnosis of multiple sclerosis doesn't keep Nancy Wendirad from achieving her goals.



NANCY WENDIRAD '05
UNC Alumni Association Advisory
Board President

Hard-Fought Bargains

UNC ALUMNA NANCY WENDIRAD LIVES LIFE ON HER TERMS

Nancy Wendirad had to learn how to live with multiple sclerosis. That meant living with burning facial pain and adjusting to blurry vision in her right eye. Most of all, it meant she had to learn how to bargain with a terrible disease.

Wendirad was diagnosed with MS in 1992. She went to a doctor with a dayslong, excruciating headache that accompanied blurry vision and severe pain in her right eye. The doctor sent her to an ophthalmologist, who sent her to a neurologist, who told her she had MS but said he couldn't do anything for her.

That was when she started to bargain with her illness, because at the time, Wendirad had a 6-year-old daughter, Abebech. Her bargain? If she could raise her daughter without the debilitating symptoms of MS, she would let the disease do whatever it wanted later on.

She'd already learned the art of compromise from growing up in northern Mexico. At her high school there, she ran the 100-meter dash, but she also ran the 1,000-meter because no one else on her team wanted to do it. Another compromise: she moved to Greeley so she could be with her mother, but doing so meant she had to learn English.

No problem. She took a two-year, intensive program at Aims Community College where she earned her Associate of Arts degree and met her husband, Gideon.

Fluent now in English, Wendirad then enrolled at UNC in 2002, but she didn't become a Bear by half measures. A double major in Communication and Spanish with an emphasis in teaching, and an English as a Second Language endorsement, Wendirad was also a Stryker Institute for Leadership Development Scholar and Cumbres participant for prospective ESL teachers.

She graduated in 2005 and now works in the Weld RE-8 and Weld RE-3J school districts, counseling and advocating for migrant students. She's also UNC's Alumni Association Advisory Board president, and volunteers her time to give back to the programs that supported her.

And about that diagnosis bargain? MS did leave her alone, more or less, for about seven years, when she developed that burning facial pain. Doctors told her the pain was usually unbearable in most patients. She almost considered herself blessed.

Then she began to think about yet another bargain.

She'd wanted to run a marathon for many years. She called it a bucket list thing and began training in 2014 with long runs of up to 20 miles. In May of this year, she made it to the starting line, running down the Poudre Canyon in Fort Collins to finish the Colorado Marathon.

Near the end of the race, she was planning to walk the last half-mile. Then she heard Abebech's voice. Her daughter, now 31, lives in Lakewood but planned to run the last part of the race with her mom. Wendirad also saw her husband, camera in hand, shouting, "You got this, Nancy," and her former professor, Efrain Garza, and his wife, Nora, cheering her on. Wendirad let the burst of energy that came from their support carry her in a sprint to the finish line.

That's how the whole bargain started out, after all — with a goal, her family and determination. From learning English and getting her degree to training for a marathon and keeping a monster at bay, she's pushed through, in part because she's living — in the biggest sense of the word — with MS.

—Dan England

Alumni Notes

Editor's Note: Alumni Notes items are submitted by alumni and are not verified by the editors. While we welcome alumni news, *UNC Magazine* is not responsible for the information contained in these submissions.

 **Submit Alumni Notes online at**
unco.edu/uncmagazine

 **Follow along on Twitter @UNCBearsAlumni**
to read more alumni news and notes

50s

Gerald Leischuck (BA '59, MA '61), Auburn, Ala., has published *My Auburn: Four Decades on the Plains – An Autobiography*.

Joan N. Murray (BA '59, MA '62, EdS '67), Thornton, published a vintage cookbook in 2007, *Creative Cuisine Collection*, under her Italian name Giovannina Murray, which is in the Colorado Historical Museum.

60s

Barbara Jo Davis (BA '64), Eden Prairie, Minn., was inducted into the Minnesota Women Business Owners Hall of Fame for her outstanding leadership as former owner of Ken Davis Barbecue Sauce. Davis helped grow one of the most successful African-American owned businesses in the state.

James W. “Jim” Cantrell (MA '65), Bardstown, Ky., made history last year by being the first Kentucky artist selected by Churchill Downs to produce the Official Art of the Kentucky Derby, which appeared on the 2017 Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby posters, tickets and programs. Cantrell's painting career spans six decades. His work is in the permanent collection of 16 art museums around the country and numerous corporate and private art collections.

George Small (BA '69, MA '72), Cañon City, is District Governor for Rotary 5470, which supports 57 clubs and 2,200 members in southern Colorado.

70s

Donald “Don-Paul” Benjamin (BA '70, MA '78), Cedaredge, has traveled to schools and libraries in Colorado and other western states teaching cartooning and story illustration to children. In May 2017, he taught cartooning to his 6,500th student. To commemorate the occasion, the

student, a fourth-grader at Cedaredge Elementary School, received one of Benjamin's autographed cartoons.

Max Carlson (BA '71), Longmont, wrote *A Thousand Little Cuts*, published March 2017.

Charles West (BM '71), Centreville, Va., retired after 30 years as Professor of Music at Virginia Commonwealth University. Among his achievements are *Woodwind Methods: An Essential Resource for Educators, Conductors, and Students* and *Woodwind Instruments: Purchasing, Maintaining, Troubleshooting and More* published by Meredith Music Publications. West is also the recipient of the Award of Excellence, VCU Arts' highest faculty honor.

Fred Waiss (BA '72), Prairie Du Chien, Wis., published four books, including *Just Lucky, Book 1: Friends and Enemies*, his most recent *Just Lucky, Book 2: Love and Hate* along with two fantasy novels *Prophecy of Honor* and *Witchery*.

Claude d'Estrée (BA '74), Denver, is full professor at the University of Denver. He is the director of the M.A. program in International Human Rights, Director of the Human Trafficking Center (HTC) and Director of the Center on Human Rights Education (COHRE).

Alumnus named to Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association 2017 Hall of Fame

Alumnus Gary Nickal (BA '68, MA '70), was named to the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association 2017 Hall of Fame. Nickal grew up in Scottsbluff and wrestled for UNC (then Colorado State College) under renowned coaches John Hancock and Jack Labonde. Throughout his career, Nickal coached 17 individual state champions in schools across Nebraska, Kansas and Wyoming, and coached 33 wrestlers to state placements.

Bears Changing Lives

“I am so blessed to have been given the opportunity to attend such an incredible university, where I am supported and cherished. The donors who support the students at the University of Northern Colorado are the heroes of my educational story, and I intend to honor their generosity by working relentlessly to change the lives of the young students of our country, and leaving the world better than I found it.”

—Lindsey Andrighetti,
Elementary Education, 2018



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Thomas Tornow (BA '75), Whitefish, Mont., was named the 2017 Citizen of the Year by the Whitefish Chamber of Commerce for his contributions to the community in providing affordable housing for working citizens. Tornow is a housing attorney for low-income seniors, families and handicapped individuals and is a candidate for Whitefish Municipal Judge.

Samuel M. Collier (MS '77), Vivian, La., worked as a Systems Engineering Consultant for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Fort Worth on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter during the System Design and Demonstration (SDD) phase of the aircraft program.

John C. "Chris" Coursey (BA '77), Santa Rosa, Calif., is mayor of Santa Rosa, effective Dec. 6, 2016.

Mary S. Ernster (BA '78), Northbrook, Ill., is in the Broadway production of *War Paint* with Patti LuPone and Christine Ebersole.

80s

Brooke Serpe-Ingold (MA '81), Sparks, Nev., is an RN case manager and a retired Army Nurse Corps Officer.

Mark Pargas (BA '83), Pellham, N.Y., is celebrating his 19th year as a staff editor at the *New York Times*. Pargas helps produce the *Food*, *Thursday Styles*, *Sunday Styles*, *Men's Style*, *Real Estate*, *Sunday Metropolitan*, *Sunday Business* and *Arts and Science* sections of the famed publication.

Ernesto P. Alvarado (PhD '87), Thornton, co-authored *Our Apache Ways*, published by Vanishing Horizons.

Brenda (Walker) Neubaum (BA '89), Denver, has been named 2017 New Volunteer of the Year by Volunteers of America-Colorado for her work with Hunger Free Colorado. She recently retired from federal service in the Food and Nutrition Service and the National Health Service Corps.

90s

Catherine "Cathy" Lucas (BA '90), Denver, is chief communications officer and chief of staff at Metropolitan State University and has been named the 2017 Public Relations Person of the Year by the Public Relations Society of America Colorado Chapter.

Ray Hallquist (BA '94), Littleton, is the owner of a new general construction company, HPM, and looks forward to the construction of his first building at UNC.

Ken Reed (EdD '95), Littleton, is sports policy director for League of Fans, a sports reform project that advocates for justice, fair play, equal opportunity and civil rights in sports. His book is titled *Ego vs. Soul in Sports: Essays on Sport at Its Best and Worst*.

Major Cathleen Marie McManaman (BA '97), Parker, retired with 25 years of service in the United States Army. She completed five overseas tours in the Middle East and one tour in the Balkans. Her awards include a Bronze Star, two Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, a Combat Action Badge and numerous other achievement and service awards. McManaman was inducted into the Military Order of Saint Christopher for outstanding contributions to the transportation corps during Operation New Dawn and Enduring Freedom.

00s

Joshua Belk (BA '01), Colorado Springs, teaches theater at Palmer Ridge High School in Monument. His program produced Colorado's premiere of the musical *Starlight Express*. The production was awarded a Bobby G Award for Special Achievement for a Colorado Premiere by the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

Mailbag

Excerpts from your letters:

I wish that I could convey to potential educators the joy of teaching in a rural setting. Bob and I met in college in Greeley. We had the same goals. Our first teaching job was in northeastern Kansas at Horton. The little city with fantastic, dear people. We left there for Bison, a town of 500. The neighbors all came when we moved in with food, advice and love. People were wonderful. Thirty years later we still kept in touch.

If a teacher wants a quality of life, lifelong friends, respect for the job they do in the classroom, then a rural school is the place to be. I guess, Once a Bear, Always a Bear. So proud of our education at UNC.

—Mary Ann Tanking (BA '59)

As a rural educator of 37 years, I read with great interest your article on the Teaching Crisis in Rural Colorado. I was very proud of UNC and all that they are doing to address this crisis. Unfortunately, we seem to be up against some very stiff headwinds on the local, state and national fronts.

Thanks to UNC for continuing one of its core missions to develop high quality teachers for all the students of our state. I hope as part of that work they continue to advocate to get teachers into classrooms and keep them there.

—Martin L. Lamansky (BA '80, MA '90)

Thank you for a wonderful experience these past five years! I have truly grown in my career and as an individual. I am grateful for all the support I received in many different forms throughout these years to make my time at UNC so successful. I recently graduated summa cum laude and anticipate a full-time teaching offer soon. Once a Bear, Always a Bear! Thank you again!

—Rebecca Hoover (BA '17)



EDITOR'S NOTE:

We received several letters and emails in response to the Spring/Summer 2017 cover story, *The Teacher Crisis in Rural Colorado*, written by Jaclyn Zubrzycki.

One email raised concern over sentence structure, asking whether "students...are in the midst of building four new apartments for teachers" meant that students were, in fact, building apartments for teachers. Yes, according to Custer superintendent, students in the construction trades program have built apartments for teachers.

Jacinda Danner (MA '03), Palmer, Alaska, was named 2017 Teacher of the Year for Excellence in Braille Instruction by the Braille Institute of America. Danner has been teaching visually impaired students for 25 years and was recognized "for her creative approach to education, her ability to promote resources that support unique complexities of teaching in rural areas of Alaska and most importantly, her ability to connect her visually impaired students with their sighted peers to forge important friendships and partnerships."

Maria Thomas (BA '05), Greeley, has been selected to be an *O, The Oprah Magazine* Insider, one of the magazine's elite brand ambassadors. Thomas was also selected as a Who's Next in Education recipient by the *Greeley Tribune*.

10s

Ruth Kimata (BA '10), Cheyenne, Wyo., is a reporter with the KGWN CBS Channel 5 news team.

Samantha Provenzano (BA '10), Austin, Texas, along with UNC School of Theatre Arts and Dance faculty members Mary Schuttler and Gillian McNally, presented at the International Theatre for Young Audience Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, in May.

Cody T. Havard (PhD '11), Collierville, Tenn., an assistant professor of Sport Commerce at the University of Memphis, was interviewed by the *Chicago Tribune* about behavior and rivalry among Chicago Cubs fans while playing the 2017 baseball season as defending World Series Champions. Havard also discussed fan behavior and rivalry as it relates to the South Carolina Men's Basketball Final Four run for *The Island Packet* newspaper.

Meghan (Nyberg) Schmitz (BA '11), Colorado Springs, graduated a year early from UNC and is the second youngest person to graduate from the Master of Science in Communication program at Northwestern University.

Ashley Ann Valenzuela-Ruesgen (BA '11), was selected one of *BizWest's* 40 Under Forty emerging leaders in Northern Colorado. Valenzuela-Ruesgen was also recognized as one of Weld County's Millennial Leaders Making a Difference in Education.



New Leadership at UNC

Former student leader, turned fundraising executive Allie Steg Haskett (BA '03) assumed a new leadership role this year — UNC vice president for Development and Alumni Relations. As a student Steg Haskett was involved in University Program Council and served as chapter president of her sorority, Delta Zeta. Relying on 14 years of fundraising experience and a strong network of alumni and friends, Steg Haskett is responsible for leading the university's inaugural comprehensive campaign, The Campaign for UNC. The initiative has a goal to raise \$45 million and engage 13,000 alumni through participation, philanthropy and volunteerism.

Jennifer Morse (MS '12), Thornton, leads the physical education program at Prospect Valley Elementary School in Broomfield.

Aisha Jackson (BA '13), New York, N.Y., was cast in the Broadway production of *Frozen*. In her third appearance on Broadway, Jackson will understudy for the role of Anna.

Katherine "Katie" Mucci (BA '14), Atlanta, Ga., was named to the Rising 25 Class of 2017 by Front Office Sports, which honors the top 25 individuals, age 25 or younger, working in the sports industry.

Cashelle Butler (BA '14), Denver, and **Adriane Wilson** (BA '15), Greeley, were cast in the Denver Center for the Performing Arts' production of *First Date*.

Priscila Marin Amory (EdD '17), Greeley, received a job offer as an elementary teacher at a bilingual school in Greeley prior to graduation. As part of the UNC Center for Human Enrichment (CHE) cohort, Marin Amory was recognized for her high GPA and named an Inspiration Student.

Justin C. Ditter (BS '17), **Robert T. Kreiling** (BA '17), **Paul S. Reeder** (BS '17) and **Zackary H. Schreiber** (BS '17) were commissioned by the Department of Aerospace Studies/Air Force ROTC at UNC as second lieutenants in the United States Air Force.

Laurence Curry (BA '88), **Marco Robinson** (BA '17), **Emily Van Fleet-Sneed** (BA '11) and **Jenna Moll Reyes** (BA '14) have been cast in the Denver Center for the Performing Arts' production of *Wild Party*.

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PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS

FROM THE VAULT

Catch Up with the Doyenne of Science Fiction Writing

Think of an author getting to work, and you may picture a claustrophobic study, a desk littered with loose drafts stamped with many cups of coffee, walls haphazardly stuffed with books, and a single typewriter cresting above the chaos.

For Connie Willis, a 1967 alumna with degrees in English and Elementary Education, the process of writing a book begins at Starbucks, with papers and notebooks spread across the table — no laptop in sight. It might be hard to think that one of science fiction's greatest champions accomplishes all that she does in a noisy coffee shop off of 11th Avenue, but Willis does just that, twice a day.

"They all know me by name here, and they know what I order. If I try to mix it up on them, I have to shout it out from the door; otherwise they'll have it already prepared for me," Willis says and laughs.

Since the alumni magazine last featured her (see *Spectrum*, May 2000), Willis has published 15 novels, short stories and essays, and has been awarded or nominated for awards 12 times. She was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2009, and in 2011 she joined the company of writers like Ray Bradbury, Robert A. Heinlein and Isaac Asimov when she was awarded the title of Grand Master by the Science Fiction Writers

of America. Over the course of her career, she's won more major science fiction awards than any other writer.

She's most proud of her novels *Blackout* (2010) and *All Clear* (2010), which deal with researchers from the year 2060 traveling back in time to observe key events in World War II. The researchers find that they've been placed at the wrong dates and in the wrong places, and they struggle to return home without impacting the course of history.


For Willis, making the average person confront complex moral dilemmas and battle the odds is a lot more interesting than writing a classic "good vs. evil" story.

"I always write about ordinary people who are caught up in situations that they're not equipped to handle," she says. "I hate human villains; I don't think they're very interesting. I'd much rather put you up against the plague, or World War II, or a major problem in time travel."

But for Willis, it's not all about fighting and struggling. Sometimes it's about exploring the lighter side of life. She's working on a comedy about Roswell, New Mexico, and the events surrounding the town's fame. In 2016, she wrote *Cross Talk*, a romantic comedy about social media, 24-hour availability and telepathy. This fall, she published a collection of Christmas stories in *A Lot Like Christmas*.

—Jason Keller



 The UNC alumni magazine featured Willis in the May 2000 issue. The article, "Hairnets, High Noon and Hansen-Willis Hall," is available at unco.edu/uncmagazine

WILLIS RECOMMENDS:

- The most current edition of *The Year's Best Science Fiction* by Gardner Dozois
- *Time for the Stars* (1956) by Robert A. Heinlein
- *Tunnel in the Sky* (1955) by Robert A. Heinlein
- *The Star Beast* (1954) by Robert A. Heinlein
- A current copy of *Asimov's Science Fiction* magazine

THE BEST WAY TO START WITH CONNIE WILLIS' WORKS:

- *Time is the Fire: The Best of Connie Willis* (2013)
- *Doomsday Book* (1992)
- *Lincoln's Dreams* (1987)

In Memory

1940s

Elizabeth (Keyes) Mount MA '41
Dorothy "Dot" Sweet Forman BA '42
Wanda Mae Richardson BA '43
Dorothy Sandusky BA '47
James "Jim" Hornsby BA '49

1950s

James "Jim" Riley Adams BA '50
John Stuart Hutchinson BA '50, MA '53
Clarice Ruth Davis BA '51
Bob Edmondson MA '51
Albert D. Regnier BA '51, MA '58
Shirley Gustafson BA '52
Katherine Ann Ferguson BA '54
Elmer T. Glover, Sr. MA '54
John Clement Linnan MA '54
Paul Landon Rader BA '54
Richard "Dick" Arlen Evans BA '55
Barbara Ann (Brown) Eakes AB '57, MA '62
Raymond J. Grandfield Jr. BA '57
Robert Allen Klein BA '57
Martha Riley BA '57
Dilbert Lee Gorsline BA '58
Milton August Martin MA '58
James Ronald Heffley AB '59
Karen Roberts Stafford BA '59

1960s

Shirley Virginia Tracy BA '60
Stanley Usel BA '60, MA '68
Lewis Junior Copple MA '61
Eugene "Gene" C. Hart MA '61
Normal Lee (Utley) Rasor McFarlin BA '61
Richard Dale McPeck BA '61 MA '67
Sandra "Sandy" Wickander Grabowski BA '61, MA '67
Lillian Jean DiGiallonardo BA '62
Nathan Frank Frazier BA '62
Richard Looney BA '62
Lousie B. Schroeder MA '62
Michael P. Weiker BA '62, MA '65
Adella Mae Wilken MA '62
Wendell Reece Altmiller EdD '63
Judith Rae (Peter) Berringer BA '63
Jean McPherson BA '63
Duane L. Plucknett MA '63
Della Mae Schneider BA '63, MA '77
Anthony "Tony" Vincent Fasano BA '64
Kenton Leigh Yockey BA '64
Russell Dean Albert EdD '65
Richard Dean Simpson MA '65
Lois Strayer MA '65
Jerry K. Webb BS '66
Carlton O'Neil Johnson BA '67, MA '68
Kaye Marie Running MA '67
John Edwin Grauberger BA '68, MA '73
Margaret Dee (Bender) Little MA '68



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1970s

Carol Bedenhausen BA '70
Frank Dell'Apa Ph.D '70
Scott Huey BS '70
E. Douglas Johnson BA '70
Phillip Richard Jones BA '70
Mary Ann Bielenberg-Hill MA '71
Murray Robert Kula BA '71, MA '76
Ronald Martin BA '71
Nancy Sue Gagne BA '71
Judith E. Meyer MA '72
Charles Noel Statham BA '72
Mary Ellen Cloninger MA '73
E. "Al" McLaren MA '73
James Harvey Rickhoff MA '73
JoEllen Rice Harris BA '74
Col. George M. Rodgers MA '74
Evelyn Elaine Fredeen-Campbell MA '75
Barbara S. Marquardt MA '75
Dwight E. Neuenschwander MA '75
Steve Pasecky, Jr MA '76
Myra Susan Trout MA '76
Charles "Chic" JV Fries, III MS '77
Melvin Fredrick Green, Jr BS '78
Roberta Rose Kline BA '78
Karen "Karey" Benson BS '79
Brian Joseph Patrick Matthews MA '79
Larry "Cork" Francis Walsh BA '79

80s

Clara JoAnn Whitehead MA '80
Stephen Richard Malcolm MS '81
Michael R. Ryerson MA '81
Janice S. Korff BS '82
Dree (Look) Lo BS '82
Debra J. Adams BS '87

90s

Judy A. (Zink) Brown BS '90
Ruth Coreen Sundling BA '90
Whitney B. Lathrop BS '91
Terril Rector Glasgow BA '92, MA '93, Ph.D '02
Thomas Edward Zimdahl BS '94
Brent Gary Welch BS '98

00s

Elizabeth Johanna Latonero BA '04
Amanda K. Hoffmann Smith BS '04
Brian Douglas Ball MA '08

TRIBUTES

Correction: John Michael Brand, Dallas, Texas, died January 2017. Brown was an English professor at UNC from 1969-98.

Francis "Mike" Loustalet, Greeley, died April 4, 2017. Mike was a friend of UNC. He and his wife, Marilyn, established the Loustalet Family Scholarship and were named 2015 Honored Alumni for their ongoing support.

Former UNC president **Herman D. Luján** died in May 2017. Luján became UNC's first Latino president and served as the institution's ninth president from 1992-96. Luján Hall in Presidents Row, formerly known as Faculty Apartments, is named in his honor.

H. Richard "Dick" Farr, Loveland, passed away June 7, 2017. Dick was a steadfast supporter of the university and UNC athletics, attending nearly every sporting event on campus. He truly enjoyed student-athletes and was in awe of their achievements both on the playing field and in the classroom. Each May, Dick would bring flowers to campus to honor the birthday of his mother, Judy Farr.

Eugene D. Koplitz died September 5, 2017 in Greeley. He was 91. Koplitz served as Associate Dean and Director of the UNC Honors Program from 1965 to 1973, then returned to the Psychology faculty until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1988. Eugene and his wife, Peggy, have long been active in the UNC community and recently established a scholarship to support Honors students who are conducting research during their senior year.

Last Look

Bear Vision

UNC wrestler Keilan Torres is working his way back toward the NCAA championships

Keilan Torres is the type of person who can look back and see how his experiences have shaped him.

The redshirt senior, who helped set multiple program records last year, is one of eight UNC wrestlers who have qualified for the NCAA Division I tournament under fourth-year head coach Troy Nickerson.

Three years ago, though, he was a student-athlete at Oklahoma State University, a program in his home state with a national reputation. But after a few tough losses, his coaches sat him out of practice. As an athlete whose experience playing high school football showed him the value of a supportive team atmosphere in winning, Torres started wondering

whether he even wanted to continue wrestling. He talked with his coach and was unexpectedly granted a transfer waiver.

That decision, tough as it may have been, led him to Colorado. When he visited UNC, he says, the team treated him like family. Parents of UNC wrestlers told him how great the coaches were. Torres was sold. It was a good cultural fit for an athlete whose parents taught him to be humble and kind.

Now, in his final collegiate season, the three-time Oklahoma high school champion reflects on his time at OSU with thankfulness for how it made him a better wrestler and ultimately led him to the opportunities he's capitalized on at UNC. And he looks back at last year's NCAA experience with the perspective of someone who's worked through the nerves, is focused on consistency, and is ready to roar back into the championship arena in March with nothing to lose.

—Rebecca Dell



Going into the 2017–18 season, *Wrestling Insider Newsmagazine* ranked Torres No. 19 in the nation at the 165-pound weight class. The publication also ranked his teammate Dylan Gabel of Parker No. 15 in the 184-pound division. Those rankings elevated UNC into the top 50 (44th) in the preseason tournament power index.



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#UNCBears

In early July, UNC's new Bluegrass faculty performed at Garden Theatre for the Concert Under the Stars series.



PHOTO BY WOODY MYERS