

# Colorado Rocky Mountain School

---

Fall 2014

---



Each year, incoming CRMS students engage in trail work in the surrounding Wilderness areas.

## LEARNING TO SERVE: THE ROLE OF SERVICE IN THE CRMS CURRICULUM

— BY BOB WARD —

The founders of Colorado Rocky Mountain School didn't talk much in public about community service, but a service ethic has driven the organization from the very start.

John and Anne Holden were so busy building and sustaining the school in its infancy that they probably neglected to mention the word "service" to students and donors. If you ask longtime faculty member Mark Clark, however, service was inherent to CRMS and its culture.

"My feeling is that John and Anne would have said, 'That's just part and parcel of what we do,'" Clark said. "You couldn't see that in any of our material, but you could sure as heck feel it in everything we did on campus. It wasn't an add-on. It was part of the core."

And that remains true today, from the work crews to the active program to the classroom. Just as students helped to create

the benches, bookshelves and buildings in the original school, today's CRMS students give back to both the school and the broader community. Service appears in virtually all aspects of school life, from a freshman's first taste of the outdoor program to the final adventure of their senior project.

In fall of their freshman year, CRMS students take a ten-day wilderness trip that includes three days of volunteer trail work for the U.S. Forest Service. These outdoor service projects represent between 1,200 and 1,500 hours of labor each August, and the resulting drainage features, wooden walkways and switchbacks can be seen on popular trails throughout the nearby Maroon Bells-Snowmass, Hunter-Fryingpan and Holy Cross wilderness areas.

"Certainly some students tune into it, tune into the ethic of giving back, more readily than others," said Outdoor

Program Manager Darryl Fuller. "But after spending 12 or 14 hours working on a 100-foot section of trail, kids do gain a huge appreciation for what it takes for a trail simply to exist and be maintained."

From that first exposure, a select handful of students go on to become "wilderness assistants," the 12th-graders who help lead the fall wilderness trips and usher new students in to the CRMS community. According to Fuller, a wilderness assistant is "one of the most coveted student leadership positions," and the popularity of the job illustrates the strength of the CRMS service ethic.

Student-run service clubs, including Face Aids and Operation Smile, also illustrate the value that the school community places on meaningful service.

Still, Fuller and the school administration aren't finished yet; they're planning to

*...continued on p. 5*

## LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL: SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES THAT REFLECT A POWERFUL PROGRAM

— BY JEFF LEAHY —

John and Anne Holden in their writings recount a town meeting that took place while they were at the Putney School. This particular meeting was about how the town could address an overcrowded public school facility. As the Holdens tell it, solutions were proposed until finally a community member proposed that they “have a raisin’ bee” (where the entire community comes together to build a structure). With this idea, John was on his feet seconding this idea, envisioning the entire community coming together to create a new structure. The idea was shot down and later a new building was built due to the generosity and influence of some key people, but clearly John mentions it at the beginning of the school’s history because they would go on to build an entire school out of what was once a ranch, and they would do it through hard work, community involvement, and the generosity of a great many people. A passion and belief for John and Anne Holden’s vision, coupled with the tireless energy of a great many people, went into building a school that is seeing an enormous amount of success as a result.

Capital campaigns like the one we are at the tail end of (\$8.5 out of a \$10 million goal) tend to be a bit like “raisin’ bees” excluding the manual labor. It involves crafting a vision for facilities that will bring the buildings in line with what is already a powerful program. It then entails bringing the full constituency of people devoted to the cause and passionate about providing students with a quality living and learning environment. The outcome is a wonderful set of buildings that ensure that CRMS will have a strong and healthy boarding program and inviting places to learn and grow.

In the 1950s the Holdens’ dream materialized because people came forward at critical times in support of the

school. While most of our buildings can no longer be built by students and faculty, the program continues to teach the value and importance of meaningful work and how to get involved in the community much like John and Anne did during their time at Putney.

Over the last few years we have made substantial improvements to the overall campus facilities. We have done so with an eye towards maintaining the look and feel of the historic property, and at the same time ensuring that the new buildings support the growth and learning of the overall program. Adding new buildings to a campus certainly has an impressive programmatic impact for the students and a visual impact for any guests who make their way to our Colorado ranch.

However, the influence and impact a new structure has on the campus also come in the form of sustainable effects that are a consequence of these new facilities.

If we consider just two aspects of sustainability—the annual costs that relate to energy consumption and the cost of upkeep—these new buildings are saving a tremendous amount of resources in the short and long terms. The reuse of existing facilities through remodeling allows us to take the most sustainable path we

The Newsletter of Colorado Rocky Mountain School  
is published three times a year by Colorado Rocky Mountain School  
Fall 2014 (Vol 63 / Issue No. 1)

DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT:

Lisa Raleigh / lraleigh@crms.org

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI/ANNUAL FUND:

Laura McCormick / lmccormick@crms.org

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER:

Beth Smith / bsmith@crms.org

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSION:

Molly Dorais / mdorais@crms.org

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Mark Gotfredson / mgotfredson@crms.org

HEAD OF SCHOOL:

Jeff Leahy / jleahy@crms.org

500 Holden Way, Carbondale, CO 81623 [www.crms.org](http://www.crms.org)

can. We conservatively estimate that we have saved \$2.3 million by avoiding new construction costs through the renovation and remodeling of nearly 23,000 square feet of space. All these buildings have been constructed with significantly improved insulation, alternative energy features (such as solar hot water and sola-

### 2014-2015 CRMS Board of Trustees

Michael McCoy (Parent—Lauren ’04, Emily ’08), President  
Chris Bromley ’93, Vice President  
Tony Cherin ’58, Treasurer  
Libby Bohanon (Parent—Angus ’07, Kelsey ’11)  
Chelsea Brundige (Parent—Tashi ’16)  
Eric Calhoun (Parent—Beda ’06)  
Ruth Carver (Parent—Linnea ’10)  
Sherri Draper (Parent—Dylan Ferry ’04, Eden Ferry ’06)  
Lee Ann Eustis (Former Faculty)  
Jamie Emmer (Parent—Jackson ’05)  
Ted Hepp ’61  
Steve Kaufman (Friend)  
Veronika Miller (Parent—Will ’14, Eli ’16)  
Mariah Dickson (Leave of Absence for 2014/2015)  
Mags Miller ’90  
Virginia Newton (Parent, Will ’17, Freddy ’10, Landon ’06)

### 2014-2015 BOT MEETING DATES

September 12 and 13, 2014  
December 12 and 13, 2014  
February 20 and 21, 2015  
May 15 and 16, 2015

...continued from p. 2

tubes), sustainable woods, and the like. For instance, each solar hot water system installed in our two new dormitories is expected to eliminate 81,000 lbs of carbon dioxide emissions and reduce energy costs by \$2,000 annually.

Of course, if it has been more than five years since you have been back to CRMS, we would love to take you for a tour of the entire campus and point out both the new buildings and the historic ones that we have preserved. That said, if you haven't been on campus in the last year, then I would like you to know that we opened in the fall of 2013 a new science facility in the garden level of the Jossman Academic Building (built in 2003), and this, in turn, gave us an opportunity to update the 1974 science facility last spring by renovating it into a new library. Our focus these last few years has been to ensure that CRMS is a "forever" school—to that end we have concentrated on developing the core of our campus, and with the exception of two new dormitories, the overall footprint of our buildings will not have changed. In short, we have made significant improvements by renovating our existing spaces.

## KAYAK SEASON WRAP UP

— BY PETER BENEDICT —

After the winter laid down a record snowfall, the river program braced for a big-water year. The Kayak Team went to four events this spring. The Salida Pole Pedal Paddle is a triathlon involving back-country skiing, mountain biking, and white-water kayaking. In other words, the perfect venue for CRMS to thrive. We had three students compete solo and two three-person teams. Cormac McGeough placed the second-fastest bike time overall. Nic Rietman posted the second-fastest ski time. The two also competed in the Rocky Mountain Slalom Championships in Golden and the Buena Vista Paddlefest Pro Am freestyle competition. The students learned from those events and did what they were capable of. As fourth quarter came to a close, we focused on running all the great rivers around Carbondale and even got a chance to surf "Big Sur," a wave in Grand Junction that disappeared in 1997 and only just resurfaced.

The beginners and intermediate kayakers had stellar spring trips on the San Juan, and everyone made great progress.

All students learned to roll and do basic river maneuvers and several completed combat rolls. The beginners finished the year by running the Cemetery stretch on the Roaring Fork in Glenwood Springs. The intermediates finished by running Catherine Store to Carbondale on the Roaring Fork.

In addition, the Intermediate Canoe Group paddled many difficult miles of whitewater, including the San Juan. They finished the year by being introduced to "Putean" a Canadian delicacy.

Finally, we had a strong showing from canoes and kayaks during the 2014 Oystermeister. Alex Perkins won the event overall; the top male student was Andy Hatch while the top female student was Tashi Brundige.



A CRMS Oyster braving the whitewater.

## GIRLS' SOCCER

— BY AO FORBES —

The girls' soccer season was inspired and characterized by hard work, lots of learning, and our team got better and better as the

short season progressed. Led by a core group of seniors in the defense, we were more competitive with all the teams we played and ended up winning our last two games. Yet the most impressive aspect of our season was the resiliency and spirit of our team as we weathered numerous injuries and, the usual CRMS issue, too many games in a short season. Regardless, from the coaches' perspective, this was a delightful season inspired by a great group of girls who worked hard and improved as the season progressed. We became a team that thoughtfully tried to "possess" the ball with accurate short passing and creative move-

ment off the ball. A lot of this progress was initiated during time spent in the gym.

The culmination of our season was our last game where we scored lots of beautiful goals, our senior led defense was impenetrable, and our brand new goalie was stellar. It was a magical evening on the field.



The Girls' 2014 Soccer Team.

## -INSIDE-

ON CAMPUS.....	1-9
DEVELOPMENT.....	10-11
GRADUATION.....	12-15
SENIOR PROJECTS.....	16-17
SPRING TRIP.....	18-19
ALUMNI.....	20-22
IN MEMORIAM.....	22-23



## BIKING RECAP

— BY MATT BOWERS —

The spring bike season, a combination of road and mountain biking, saw CRMS riders exploring the entire range of riding that the Roaring Fork Valley has to offer.

The instructional-level programs got lucky, with many trails clearing early in spite of our winter's heavy snowfall. This meant they got to get right out and begin

practicing on dirt, progressing quickly through the quarter. The bike team spent the first half of the quarter with more of a road focus, navigating many of the scenic road rides throughout the valley. Come Spring Trip, the biking groups headed out into the desert, from Fruita all the way out to Moab. New riders tested their single-track skills on Moab's new Bar M and Mag 7 trails. The advanced group pushed their limits on classic

epic rides along the Kokopelli Trail, some days riding over 40 miles. As the quarter drew to a close, we saw beginners with newfound skills, advanced riders who had mastered the harder technical portions of Red Hill, and some of our racers finishing well in both local road rides and endurance mountain bike races. All told, it was a very successful quarter of biking, covering the whole range of the sport.



Mountain Bikers take a break on their Spring Trip.



## FRIDAY NIGHT OF FAIR CONTINUES TO CONNECT

— BY LAURA MCCORMICK —

On July 25, 2014, the CRMS Friday Night of Fair Event brought together over 60 alumni, current and former faculty and friends at Allegria in Carbondale. Attendees reconnected over light appetizers provided by the European bistro on Main Street. For nearly ten years, this event has offered a fun venue for local alumni and those coming into town for the weekend to meet up and kick off the Mountain Fair festivities together. If you plan to come to Carbondale for the Mountain Fair next year, you can be sure to find us at Allegria from 9 to 11 p.m. on Friday night. Thank you to all who attended this year. We hope to see you there next year as this new tradition continues!



Faculty BJ Sbarra, Maria Mork '11, and Gracyn Overstreet '10



Sierra Jacober Aldrich '97, Johnny Roland '98



Bruce Stott '90, Seth Brown '91 and Adriana Pevec-Brown '92

...continued from p. 1

incorporate service-oriented work in more outdoor trips.

"Ultimately, the (outdoor) programs aren't about rock climbing or biking or kayaking," Fuller said. "Those are inherently worthwhile activities, but we're a school that's trying to educate the whole child and teach people to think beyond themselves."

And that's a good summary of why the school emphasizes service at all grade levels and in many aspects of the curriculum. Though it isn't always stated overtly, the notion of service — to the school, to the community, to the world — has been deeply embedded in CRMS culture from the beginning.

Today's energy-efficient, wifi-equipped school buildings are designed and erected by construction professionals, but students are still there to lay the sod and put on the finishing touches. They also give back to their peers and the CRMS community by growing vegetables in the garden, preparing food in the kitchen, turning wrenches in the bike shop, and more.

The arts program, in particular, gives back to the school in numerous ways. Students in the ceramics work crew make tea and coffee mugs for the Bar Fork, and hand-crafted drinking glasses come from the glassblowing crew. Similarly, student blacksmiths create coat hangers, handrails, and other artwork for the CRMS campus. Student drawings, paintings, and photographs decorate the hallways in various buildings, and student photos fill the yearbook.

The benefits of other work crews extend beyond the campus. For more than a dozen years, work-crew participants have helped science teacher Jim Gaw with River

Watch, a water quality monitoring and assessment program administered by the state Department of Parks and Wildlife. Once per month, students walk down to the nearby Crystal River, take water samples and perform tests for dissolved oxygen, pH, nutrients and mineral content.

"We're monitoring the health of a river that flows through our valley and through our campus," Gaw explained. "It's applied science in the service of the state of Colorado and wildlife programs."

Service even appears in the academic sphere. A prime example in 2013-14 was Tracy Wilson's Social Justice course, in which seniors learned about issues ranging from gender inequality to racism to human trafficking.

"They're kind of dire topics, but the whole premise of the class was, 'What can we do about these things?'" Wilson explained. "The capstone project of the class, or their final, was doing something to make a difference."

Keeping the focus on solutions, Wilson invited local guest speakers to tell the class how they're addressing problems such as domestic violence and the English-Spanish language barrier in the Roaring Fork Valley. For their final projects, eleven CRMS students went out to middle schools in Carbondale to give presentations on social-justice topics of their own choosing.

Wilson was surprised and impressed by the passion and authenticity that the students brought to their topics.

"That would be my biggest hope — that this class makes these students aware of the injustices going on around them," Wilson said, "and that they try to figure out personally how they can be involved."

The same kind of thinking informs many senior projects. In their final year at CRMS, seniors design their own three-week "sabbaticals" in locations across the globe. The projects run the gamut from big-city desk jobs to wilderness adventures and hands-on farming experiences, but College Counselor Betsy Bingham-Johns says all students are encouraged to incorporate service into their plan.

"They learn the value of



Ben Holden '57 helps erect a campus building.

being able to make an impact, that they can actually do good in the world," she said. "They also gain a certain level of confidence that they can work in groups, they can navigate the world on their own. They come back feeling empowered and humbled at the same time."

Near the conclusion of her senior symposium presentation in June, CRMS student Caleigh Smith was asked about the lessons she learned on her three-week voyage aboard the sloop *Clearwater* on New York's Hudson River. Her answer was multifaceted and touched on several aspects of her experience: learning to sail, studying the history and ecology of the Hudson and becoming an onboard environmental educator.

"CRMS throws you into these new environments where you're just completely immersed, and this was exactly the way (the *Clearwater*) was," she said. "I learned that I can be a lot more self-reliant than I thought."

The CRMS mission is to foster a learning environment where "students discover their potential to excel as individuals, contribute to their communities, and thoughtfully participate in the world we share."

The word "service" doesn't appear in that statement, but clearly the school has set its sights beyond mere knowledge acquisition.

As Outdoor Program Manager Fuller said, "I'm not sure you can really be a great citizen if you don't act as a role model and demonstrate that you're someone who really believes in giving back to others, giving back to something larger than yourself."



CRMS Senior Vladimir Funes teaching children aboard the *Clearwater*.



## THE MOUSETRAP

— BY JEFF SCHLEPP —

This past Spring I had the great pleasure of directing Colorado Rocky Mountain School's all-school drama production of the classic who-done-it murder mystery, "The Mousetrap" by Agatha Christie. Now celebrating its Diamond Anniversary in its 60th year in London, England, "The Mousetrap" is the World's longest running play.

The story of the play is about a group of strangers who are stranded in a boarding house during a snow storm, one of which is a murderer. The suspects include a newly married couple, played energetically by sophomore Zoe Steel and charmingly by senior Andy Hatch, who run the house. As the plot thickens, their suspicions nearly wreck



(L to R) Zoe, George, and Andy greet each other at the boarding house.



(L to R) Ana and Sophie in the midst of a fireside chat.



(L to R) Byron, Caleb, and Andy express their suspicions.

their perfect marriage. Others at the boarding house include a rather manly spinster with a curious background, played superbly by sophomore Sophie Timms; an architect menacingly played by junior Byron Beard, who seems better equipped to be a chef; a retired Army major played sternly by sophomore Caleb Wexler; a strange little man who claims his car has overturned in a drift, played very

suspiciously by senior George Bernard; and a jurist who makes life miserable for everyone, played obnoxiously by sophomore Ana Lizarraga. Into their midst arrives a policeman, traveling on skis, played cunningly by sophomore Ian Stokes. Not long after the policeman arrives, the jurist is killed.

Two down, and one to go.

To understand the rationale of the murderer's pattern, the policeman probes the background of everyone present and uncovers a lot of hidden skeletons. The story concludes with another famous Agatha Christie surprise finish!

This is the third murder mystery that I have directed at CRMS, and I have loved each one. I thoroughly enjoy the fascinating characters and the wonderful twists and turns that they take. The CRMS cast of "The Mousetrap" was no exception. They all created terrific characterizations with very intriguing personalities. Their mastery of a wordy script was excellent and very well rehearsed. Beyond the performances was a hard-working and extremely enjoyable group of students. A special kudos to two graduated seniors – Andy Hatch and seven-show- thespian George Bernard. I will miss them both! I congratulate you all and thank you for an outstanding production of "The Mousetrap"!



## ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY AWARDS

The CRMS **Community Award** is the highest recognition the school community bestows on a student. Those who receive the award embody the enduring values that have been at the core of the school since its beginning — respect, responsibility, and excellence. The award recognizes individuals for their responsibility beyond themselves, for their willingness to work for the benefit of all, and for the legacy, through example, that endures in the memories of everyone. This year's Community Award recipients are:

Freshman - Andres Rivera  
 Sophomore - Michael Yoshimura  
 Junior - Jack Huntington-Rainey  
 Senior - Talia Krehbiel-Boutis



Senior Talia Krehbiel-Boutis

The CRMS **Academic Excellence Award** is granted to a student whose academic performance during the year demonstrates remarkable consistency at the highest level of achievement. The intent of the award is to honor those who have rewarded both students and faculty in the classroom, who achieve a level of excellence matched by the values of scholarship we all hold dear, and who study with intensity, motivate themselves and others, and genuinely celebrate learning in all aspects to its fullest. This year's Academic Award winners are:

Freshman - Teddy Wroblewski  
 Sophomore - Marshall Graybill  
 Junior - Tommy Tang  
 Seniors - George Bernard



Senior George Bernard



The Colorado Rocky Mountain School Class of 2014

## HORSE PROGRAM RETURNING TO CRMS!

All good things return in good time, including the CRMS Horse Program, which is eagerly slated to begin in the fall of 2014.

What does the return of horses mean to the CRMS campus and program? It means reaching back to our ranching history to move us further forward into the realm of authentic connection, dedicated care, and meaningful stewardship. It means cultivating

relationships, inspiring skill, and tending to the aesthetic of beauty. It means moving full circle where, once again, horses will travel through our campus, like those in years past, chiming their arrival with the sound of hooves striking ground.

A big thank you to Amanda Leahy, pictured right, and Diane Hackl, Director of Active Curriculum, for their efforts in bringing this program back to CRMS!



## EcoFlight

— CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MARTA PEREA AND TEREZA VARADYOVA (BOTH CLASS OF 2015) —

On May 27th, all CRMS AP Environmental Science students were lucky enough to go flying with EcoFlight. EcoFlight is a non-profit organization that provides aircraft for environmental advocacy, increasing awareness about different environmental issues around the country.



Our class gathered at the Glenwood Airport on Tuesday morning. An educator from the Wilderness Workshop explained all the issues concerning the Thompson Divide, and the potential oil and gas development. The Thompson Divide is a very pristine area and it has a great value as a wildlife habitat and its recreational land helps to sustain the economies of Carbondale and Glenwood Springs. There are currently 61 oil leases in the Thompson Divide area.

As a class, we flew over Thompson Divide and we were told where all these wells were going to be installed. We got a better understanding of the landscape and the essential role that it plays in the area. We flew over Rifle and were able to see all the wells that have already been developed in that area. This way we were able to picture how Thompson Divide might look after future oil and gas development. The flight gave us a much greater perspective on the importance of the area for the Roaring Fork Valley, especially Carbondale.



Pictures from the AP Environmental Science class EcoFlight.



## From the Inner City to Carbondale and Beyond with (HS)<sup>2</sup>

— BY BOB WARD —

With dreams of being the first in their family to graduate from college, 46 high school students traveled from their home cities of New York, New Orleans, Fort Worth, Dallas, and Chicago to Colorado Rocky Mountain School this summer to participate in the High School High Scholar program.

(HS)<sup>2</sup>, pronounced “HS squared,” is a five-week immersion in math, science, writing and CRMS-style outdoor adventure for a select group of 45 Latino, African-American and Native American students from low-income families across the United States. Most have never ventured far from their big-city homes, let alone attended college-preparatory classes in a place like Carbondale.

“This is a different experience for me,” said Rodney Wallace, a third-year (HS)<sup>2</sup> scholar from southwestern Florida. “I’ve never been to this side of the U.S. before. I never get to see a great view of a mountain where I live.”

By virtue of its location, rigor and culture, CRMS is unique to begin with. But for these particular students, who have successfully navigated a competitive application and interview process, (HS)<sup>2</sup> is school on steroids.

“These kids want to learn, they want to challenge themselves and each other,” said Brent Maiolo, a science teacher from Aspen High School who’s now in his third

summer with (HS)<sup>2</sup>. “They are here by choice and that makes a huge difference.”

(HS)<sup>2</sup> stands for “High School, High Scholar,” and the goal of the donor-funded program is to prepare these talented but otherwise disadvantaged children for college-level STEM courses (science, technology, engineering and math). (HS)<sup>2</sup> also promotes social and emotional growth through the boarding experience, outdoor adventures and CRMS’s hands-on artistic offerings.

“Another aspect that I enjoy is the culture shock,” Maiolo added with a laugh. “We have these kids coming from places like the Bronx and inner-city Fort Worth, and they come to Carbondale ... The things we do for fun — mountain biking, climbing — these are not normal life activities for them.”

Founded in 2007 by Garland and Mollie Lasater, who continue to be its major donors, (HS)<sup>2</sup> is free to participants but costs \$7,000 per student per summer. Student-scholars attend for three consecutive years following their freshman, sophomore and junior years, receiving a total of 450 instructional hours. Fifteen new students enter each year and 15 graduate.

Virtually every aspect of CRMS, from the low student-teacher ratios to the blacksmithing and kayaking, is a departure from the norm for these students. Often it’s an adjustment to call teachers by their first names. For students who live in neighborhoods where violent crime and drugs are rampant, just being able to safely walk outside is a new experience.

Once they’re settled in, however, these youths can hardly believe the hands-on learning and the one-on-one attention

from teachers. Outside the classroom, roughly half of the (HS)<sup>2</sup> group even ascends 12,953-foot Mount Sopris each summer — no small feat for someone from sea level.

“They come to this place that’s very unlike their home city and home school, and it really broadens their perspective,” said (HS)<sup>2</sup> Program Director Cindy Blachly. “The experience they have during their summers at

(HS)<sup>2</sup> can transform the trajectory of their lives.”

Another game-changer is the personalized college counseling. Despite having solid academic skills, many (HS)<sup>2</sup> scholars possess scant knowledge of the college application process. Most students are the first in their family to attend college, and many do not have dedicated college counselors in their home high schools. So CRMS College Counselor Betsy Bingham-Johns meets regularly with the second- and third-year students and admires their real-world mindset.

“These kids tend to have a greater financial need, so scholarships and financial aid are a big part of the picture,” Bingham-Johns said. “They want a college they can afford and they want to graduate in four years. They have to get jobs immediately.”

Each year, Bingham-Johns leads a tour of a different college or university in Colorado — in fact, two (HS)<sup>2</sup> graduates have matriculated to Colorado College — and tries to ensure each student leaves (HS)<sup>2</sup> with a solid list of potential schools, a personal essay and a complete resume.

“(HS)<sup>2</sup> has changed my whole perception of what I want in a school,” said third-year student Marcia Banegas. “I’m looking for a small school. I want the kind of experience I’ve had here.”

After working with Bingham-Johns, Miguel Del Rio of Dallas realizes there’s more to college admissions than test scores, and that he can distinguish himself in various ways.

“I don’t have to be number one,” he smiled. “I just have to be me.”

The statistics bear him out. Thus far, 100 percent of (HS)<sup>2</sup> graduates matriculate to college, and 90 percent are on track to graduate. In 2012, 13 of the 14 program graduates received full scholarships.

Even before they actually begin applying to colleges, students are empowered by (HS)<sup>2</sup>. They sense that it’s sharpening their skills and changing the arc of their future.

Finishing his third and final year at (HS)<sup>2</sup>, Del Rio sums up his experience, “At (HS)<sup>2</sup>, we are a part of something greater than ourselves. We are a family, a home away from home, a place where we can be ourselves and push each other to do great things.”



(HS)<sup>2</sup> Graduates with George Weber after commencement ceremony.

## TWO DEDICATED BOARD MEMBERS RETURN TO SERVICE

— BY LAURA MCCORMICK —

Both alumna Mags Miller '90 and current parent Virginia Newton have served as trustees on the Colorado Rocky Mountain School Board within the last 15 years. And, each of them have enthusiastically committed to rejoining the Board this fall. We recently asked them to tell us about the value of CRMS in their lives.



Mags Miller '90

### Q. What role has CRMS played in your life?

A. It's hard to even know where to begin with this one. CRMS became a home that allowed me (forced me) to grow in ways I couldn't even imagine at the age of 15. It taught me that I was physically stronger than I believed on Wilderness, that I was a better writer than I thought through Western

Civ and American History, and that I was more of a leader than I imagined. It also helped push me towards the notion of "following your dreams," never settling, and really working towards living a life that is rewarding on a personal and global level. A piece of CRMS truly resides in each decision I make, whether I am conscious of it or not. And that is a very good thing!

### Q. What do you value most about CRMS?

A. What I value most about CRMS is its authenticity. I value the life lessons that are being passed along to each CRMS student. I value the high level of expectation in the classroom, on the field, in household jobs, and beyond. CRMS is creating globally responsible citizens that will help shape the future, and that excites me to no end.

### Q. What are you most excited about as you embark on your role as a trustee?

A. I am MOST excited about retuning to the fold of CRMS as it exists today and learning how I can help strengthen the existing foundation established by the Holdens, while empowering the amazing faculty and staff who bring it to life daily. From what I know, CRMS is doing incredibly well on so many fronts, and I'm excited to see how I can best serve the CRMS community.



Virginia Newton

### Q. What role has CRMS played in your life?

A. It's been a home to our family while our three kids have gone through high school. I know it will continue to feel like "home," even after they have left.

### Q. What do you value most about CRMS?

A. A learning environment based around family, a close connection to the outdoors, and small classes where students feel safe to express their ideas and points of view. CRMS has intelligent, dedicated, creative, and engaging faculty and staff. Incredible programs in music, the arts, and theater round out the academic offerings.

### Q. What are you most excited about as you embark on your role as a trustee?

A. Pretty simple: finishing the Capital Campaign and continuing to enhance the awareness of the remarkable programs and experience CRMS provides.

## DID YOU KNOW?

CRMS's 60th Anniversary Reunion this past April had over 250 registered attendees, so when you add in our faculty, staff, and student community, we had over 450 folks on campus over the course of the weekend. What an incredible tribute to John and Anne's original vision six decades later.

## THE LIBRARY DEDICATION

By Lisa Raleigh

This past April, during the 60th Anniversary Reunion weekend, we had the unique opportunity to dedicate the new Pargiter Library with an official ceremony and a Book-It Brigade to bring the project to completion. The new Library is located in the old science building, and is a state-of-the-art facility blending new technology and physical books creating an inviting and high-functioning space. With floor-to-ceiling views of Mt. Sopris, the Barn, and Red Hill, the new Library has become one of the most popular gathering and learning spaces on campus. Thank you to the many donors who supported the \$1,000,000 in renovations and made this facility possible.





## 2013-14 ANNUAL FUND & SPECIAL EVENTS EXCEED \$635,000\*

— BY LISA RALEIGH —

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of 550+ donors, and an unprecedented number of leadership-level gifts, the 2013-2014 Annual Fund exceeded its goal of \$600,000 in honor of the school's 60th anniversary. This is the largest amount ever given in our sixty-year history. Look for a complete listing of all our supporters in the Winter Newsletter's Annual Report.

The Annual Fund is a financial backbone supporting our school's programs, teachers, and students by primarily underwriting financial-based scholarships (ensuring economic diversity in our student body) and faculty salaries (enabling us to retain the best teachers in the field).

Part of this historic total included our Special Events fundraising efforts contributing over \$80,000 to the total amount raised via our Family Weekend Scholarship Raffle & Auction in the fall and our traditional Scholarship Work Day in the spring.

We are truly grateful to everyone who donated to this year's Annual Fund and Special Events and to all the volunteers who helped bring in these important gifts. Contributions to Colorado Rocky Mountain School demonstrate a strong belief in the unparalleled independent school education provided here. Thank you to everyone for your investment; you are enabling CRMS to continue to thrive.  
\*number pending final audit

### WHY GIVING MATTERS

"I believe that CRMS had a lifelong influence on me and I not only want to help the school preserve the aspects which I valued but improve on them and help make them available for the next generation."

Ted Hepp, '61 and Board Trustee

## FORGING THE FUTURE// PRESERVING THE PAST CAMPAIGN UPDATE

— BY LISA RALEIGH —

We are delighted to report we are now \$8,475,000 of the way to our \$10,000,000 goal in facility improvements. Thanks to the generosity, belief, and investment of many, we have been able to bring our academic and residential facilities in line with the teaching excellence that takes place here daily. The major capital improvements to date include: two new dormitories, the remodeling of three others, a new Music Building, Science Facility, and Library. As we head into the home stretch of the campaign, our focus shifts to the remaining improvements, which will include a new Welcome Center, an Active Center, and final dorm renovations to the Solar and Lodge dorms. As always, a tremendous amount of gratitude to the many generous donors and strong leadership from our Board of Trustees and Head of School, who have helped us receive this unprecedented amount of donations on behalf of CRMS.

### NEXT UP: WELCOME CENTER

As we have previously shared, the new Welcome Center is to be located in the now off-line New Boys Dorm. The Welcome Center will provide an inviting Admission headquarters and centralized administrative office space

to serve all our current, prospective, and returning families. Features will include:

- Re-purposing the original 40-room, 8,800-square-foot, two-level New Boys dormitory designed by Ted Moore in the late 1960s, which has been replaced by the two new dorms in this campaign.
- Admission-based focus with a dedicated "wing," enhanced accommodations for multiple simultaneous interviews, a purposely designed waiting room, flexible meeting space, and easy access to the Head of School for meeting and greeting.
- Location at the main campus entry is excellent for welcoming visitors, current families, and returning alumni to campus.
- Original dorm room sizes are ideal for office spaces, resulting in the remodel fitting remarkably well.
- A centralized location will provide easy access to the Head of School, deans, and administrative staff for better integration of academic, residential, and active curricula.

We are currently in the planning phases of the new Welcome Center, with a projected cost of \$1,500,000, and will begin construction when we have the necessary funding in place. To join us with your support of this important capital project, please contact Lisa Raleigh, Director of Advancement, at [lraleigh@crms.org](mailto:lraleigh@crms.org) or 970-963-2562.



Colorado Rocky  
Mountain School  
CARBONDALE COLORADO

## coming soon

### NEW WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

This facility (formerly "New Boys Dorm") will include:

- 8,800 square feet of renovated and re-purposed space
- admissions and all administrative offices
- energy-efficient upgrades
- sustainability features throughout

This vital facility is part of the \$10 million  
Forging the Future//Preserving the Past Capital Campaign.

**PROJECTED COST** /// \$1,500,000

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION** /// WINTER 2014  
(contingent on successful completion of project fundraising)

**TO LEARN MORE** /// please contact Lisa Raleigh  
970.963.2562 /// [lraleigh@crms.org](mailto:lraleigh@crms.org) to support  
these capital improvements.

[crms.org](http://crms.org)

Elevating Education Since 1953











# CLASS OF 2014 HONORED WITH A THOUGHT-PROVOKING CEREMONY

— BY MARK GOTFREDSON —

Another bluebird Colorado day welcomed 43 seniors as they prepared to embark on the next chapter of their lives on June 7th, 2014. The morning commenced with families gathering outside on the Holden House lawn for breakfast. Everyone was excited as the girls were given their floral halos and boys were pinned with boutonnieres. This was followed by the class picture and the procession, led by Head of School Jeff Leahy, which wove its way from the Holden House to the lawn in front of the Barn, where anxious families, friends, and community members gathered to celebrate. With the magnificent Mt. Sopris in the background, seniors took their seats while AO Forbes and Kayo Ogilby played "Riding on the Railroad" by James Taylor. The ceremony opened with senior Caleigh Smith performing "Air Varie" by O. Rieding.

The graduation ceremony included an opening welcome from Jeff Leahy and faculty and student speakers. Academic and Community Awards were presented, the traditional leather diplomas were handed out, and student and faculty music was played throughout. "Wide Open Spaces" by The Dixie Chicks was performed by Juliette Mofroid. "Remember Me" by Gavin James was performed by Libby Kasmer. In addition, the seniors had selected two class representatives and faculty members to speak at the event. This year's speakers included seniors Fremond Mbanguza and Jamison Orr. Faculty speakers were Betsy Bingham-Johns and AO Forbes, with Kayo Ogilby leading the class charge.

Senior Fremond Mbanguza shared experiences from his time at CRMS, focusing on how he's come to appreciate the balance between striving for success

and striving for happiness. Fremond cautioned his classmates not to be too aggressive in pursuing money or material possessions, yet also acknowledged that these things are a necessity in life. Jamison Orr followed up with a captivating speech that encouraged his peers to follow their dreams.

College Counselor Betsy Bingham-Johns gave a touching speech full of humor. Instead of a traditional speech, Betsy created a list of things that the Class of 2014 should know, and alongside practical guidance were a number of humorous tips. However, before Betsy delved into her list, she confessed that she was still editing her speech even after the ceremony began. Betsy acknowledged the irony in that, as she is usually the one constantly reminding students (seniors in particular) to complete and submit their college essays.

History teacher AO Forbes spoke about a veteran who visited his class and spoke about the positive impact we can bring back to our communities. AO echoed this sentiment as he encouraged students to find a way to use whatever experiences they've had (or will have) in a way that leaves their community in a better place.

Kayo Ogilby, Science Department Chair, had the honor of giving the class charge, and began his speech by acknowledging what a tough place we're currently in when it comes to the condition of our Earth. Amid

global warming and other dire conditions, Kayo found it difficult to offer words of encouragement to the graduating class. In fact, he compared it to having to give a half-time speech to your soccer team when your team is down 0-6. Yet at the end, Kayo found those words of encouragement in the simple phrase, "You got this."

After the commencement ceremony, the Class of 2014 and guests headed over to the Bar Fork for a delicious brunch graciously put together by the kitchen staff and parent volunteers.



Vladimir, class of 2014, expresses the thrill of graduation.





2014 Class Reps (from L to R): Robinson Meng, Tanner Oates, Timmy Nielsen, Josie Horn, Max Jin.

## CRMS CLASS OF 2014 COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS

Auburn University  
Colorado College (3)  
Colorado State University  
Duke University  
Fort Lewis College  
Hampshire College  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kenyon College  
Lewis & Clark College (2)  
New York University  
Oberlin College

Savannah College of Art  
and Design  
Skidmore College  
St. Lawrence University  
University of British Columbia  
University of California  
at Berkeley  
University of Colorado  
at Boulder (7)  
University of Denver  
University of Maine  
at Farmington

University of Missouri  
Columbia  
University of New Mexico  
University of Oregon  
University of Puget Sound  
University of St. Andrews  
University of Utah  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
Western Washington  
University (4)  
Westminster College

## SENIOR PROJECTS

For three weeks, seniors depart from the CRMS campus to locations around the world, in order to pursue areas of interest for their Senior Projects. Each senior organizes their project and it becomes an opportunity for them to gain insight into the workings of a business, profession, studio, workshop, laboratory, or service organization. This experience is considered to be an exercise in self-reliance and a means to provide students with a segue into the next stage of their lives. Seniors return to CRMS prior to graduation to share their project experiences with the community at the Senior Symposium.

### VOLUNTEERING IN THE CAPUCHIN SOUP KITCHEN

— BY BEN WHITE —

I began my project in central North Carolina, where I planned on pursuing my passion of white-water kayaking by becoming a certified ACA Advanced Kayak Instructor. I arrived at the Nantahala Outdoor Center, paddled for a few days, and realized that my back wasn't fully healed from a previous injury. In an effort to prevent another injury, I traveled home to the Detroit area and worked at an inner-city soup kitchen. In the Capuchin Soup Kitchen I did a variety of work, from preparing and serving food to gardening in front of the building. While the work didn't require a lot of specific skills like white-water kayaking, the work was tough. There was never a shortage of work to be done in the kitchen, as the kitchen provides 500,000 meals per year to those in need. While in the soup kitchen, I worked around 25 hours per week, five hours a day from early in the morning to the afternoon.

When I first arrived in Detroit on a Greyhound bus from Knoxville, Tennessee, I didn't know what I was going to do for my project. I looked at some different volunteer opportunities in the area, but had trouble finding an organization that was able to provide the amount of hours required for Senior Project. After a couple days of calling around, I eventually found a volunteer opportunity in Detroit with the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, a soup kitchen near downtown Detroit in an extremely impoverished area of the city.

Going into the project at the soup kitchen, my expectations were low. At the beginning of Senior Project, I expected to be kayaking everyday on challenging white-water, gaining certifications and learning how to teach others to kayak at an advanced level. I expected to be able to pursue my passion and expand upon my abilities to communicate with others through the medium of

white-water kayaking. Therefore, I expected the work to be challenging yet a lot of fun. Leaving North Carolina, I was bummed. I thought that work at the soup kitchen would be boring compared to kayaking, as cleaning tables, preparing food, and working with the homeless wasn't really my idea of fun or interesting work. My first couple of days in the kitchen were grueling. I spent most of my day in silence, doing what I perceived to be boring and mundane work. Yet, the more time I spent there, the more I enjoyed my experience. While preparing over a thousand meatballs at a time, or pouring countless cups of orange juice and coffee, I had valuable conversations with the people who came to eat at the kitchen. I stopped doing the work to just do the work, and I worked and interacted with others to better understand the hardships endured by those in need. Some of our clients were there because of addiction, as I expected, yet the majority were simply there because of financial issues. The majority, in fact, were struggling through paying for a divorce, or a stolen car, for example, on top of unemployment. While they were employed, they were making around minimum wage, barely affording to sustain themselves in a poor economy. Once they had lost their jobs, living became a day to day struggle. For many of these people it came down to paying for food or paying the bills at the end of the month. This shocked me, as my perception before coming to the soup kitchen was that people who went there were crack addicts, or ex-criminals, or simply people from the streets.

My favorite experience working at the soup kitchen happened while I was weeding a flower bed in front of the kitchen. I was working alone, and a woman aged beyond her years dressed in old, tattered clothing approached me with a smile. We talked for

well over an hour. She was a college graduate, having received an engineering degree at a college in Southern California. She is living in an apartment in Detroit after completing a divorce, losing her job, and being car-jacked in the same week. I realized that the people who frequented the soup kitchen weren't very different from me. The difference between her and many others that I've met in my life were a few bad days.

These conversations brought me from my high horse, so to speak, and allowed me to reflect on past experiences. I thought a lot about how upset I was that I had to leave North Carolina and the river there, realizing that I still had a family at home, people who love me and care for me. I have food, and a choice of what I'd like to eat and when. I have a bed, air conditioning, a shower. I have the ability to go to school, and find a job, even have somewhat of a choice in a job. Working with the clients of the soup kitchen humanized the impoverished for me. I used to see people on the street and think, "They're drug addicts, they've made bad decisions, I could never be there, they're completely different than me." Now, I am able to see poverty in a different light. The people on the streets are just like me, they're humans. Working in the soup kitchen allowed me to bring myself to a place where I could actually understand the struggle. Some came from wealth, some didn't. Some made bad decisions, and for some the situation was thrust upon them, like it or not. The experience at the soup kitchen cemented what I have been told for my entire life, that people are people, no matter their past or financial standing.

Coming out of this experience, I feel like I can further understand and relate to others. They don't have to be kayakers, or skiers, or from places of privilege. All of us go through times of struggle, some people just don't have the safety net that others have been granted.



# THE WALKING J FARM IN AMADO, AZ

— BY JULIETTE MOFFROID —

The current buzzword that is circulating around farming is ‘sustainability.’ Sustainability is regularly associated with small-scale family farms. When used to describe farming, sustainability entails minimal external inputs and a continuous cycle that benefits all aspects of the farm. Before I went to the Walking J Farm, I just liked the sound of the word sustainability. It sounded like something I wanted to participate in.

During my junior year I quickly became obsessed with farming after taking an environmental science class that focused on gardening and watching documentaries on how the government and big-scale agriculture was trying to control the agricultural industry. I did a research paper on the Dust Bowl and another on current agricultural practices, and every time I saw a cow or a pig that wasn’t confined to a tiny pen, I squealed with joy. One could say that I was romanticizing farming and the lifestyle that comes along with it. I often told people that I would be a farmer even though I had no idea what that entailed. I had no experience with farm animals. The most gardening I had ever done was when I was a child and I would plant carrots and peas only to let them dry out in the sun and be eaten by bugs. I had nothing to back-up this dream of farming, so I did the only logical thing, take off to the 100 degree heat of southern Arizona by myself and figure out if farming was all that I had made it up to be. I expected to weed vegetable beds, to feed dogs, and to harvest a little bit. My naïveté is now humorous.

Each morning I woke up at 5:10, and began feeding the pigs. My morning chores included giving the pigs food and water, opening up the chicken coops, milking A.P. (the cow), bottle feeding B.P. (the calf), filtering the milk, feeding the dogs, and cleaning up the barn. Occasionally in the morning, I would help move the pigs to a new pasture. I then spent the rest of my day in the garden. The garden manager, other intern, and I would harvest in the morning and wash the vegetables. This was in preparation for distributing Community Supported Agriculture Shares

(CSAs), getting food together for farmers’ markets, or filling produce orders for different retail places. Afternoons would be spent transplanting in the greenhouse, planting in the open spaces, weeding, or cleaning up the garden. My evening chores were similar to my morning chores but included taking care of the horses and collecting eggs. I had random jobs throughout my time at the farm including doctoring a horse wound, taking the rectal temperature of a calf, checking on baby chickens, making compost tea, and baling hay. Work would end every day around 7pm.

I was warned that it would be hard work and that it would be hot, but I ignored these warnings. I expected there to be more people working with me, but there were only four other people working on the farm, all male, all between the ages of 25-41. It was hard for me to accept that I couldn’t keep up with these men who had been farming for months or years. I wanted to carry my own weight and show that I was capable of the demands of farming. I gave up days off, and tried everyday to work as long as anybody else and not quit early.

Because it was such a small group of us, I was able to create very close relationships with those I worked with. It would be hard to determine who taught me the most. The garden manager and I would have long talks about why farming was important for our society, what made us feel good as humans, and how to properly interact with the world around us. I learned the value of crushing dirt with my hands, and planting something and taking care of something that would sustain someone. I talked to people who had shares with the Walking J Farm and learned about how it made them feel better, that the farm did the thinking for them. We provided foods that were in season and grown with care and thought, and then they could base their meals on what was provided instead of going to the supermarket and buying produce that was imported and out-of season. I learned that farming isn’t for everyone. That if you are looking for shorter hours, or more pay, it wasn’t going to be worth it. The ranch

manager taught me about giving myself to the farm, about learning about each animal as an individual, that there would be bad days, but that if you loved farming you just pushed through it.

There is something truly fulfilling about sustainable farming, about cleaning out the chicken coop only to use the debris as fertilizer, about using animals to create beds for produce. On my third day at the farm, I was bagging produce for the CSA Shares, and it hit me that there was nothing quite like sending good, clean, healthy food to someone. The feeling of pulling a carrot or a beet from the dirt is addicting, hearing the snap of the roots as you wiggle it up through the earth. The connection that I made to an animal by milking it and then bottle feeding its baby was personal, and it affected my humanity. The innocence of these animals, and their reliance on us required patience; everything had to be done right or it would mess up their schedule. I was responsible for taking care of something other than myself.

On my last day, the ranch manager asked me if I had learned anything. I told him that I did and that it was really important that I came out here because I had such a romanticized idea of farming and no experience. He told me that even though it’s hard work, it’s easy to romanticize when you just look around you, see your environment, and realize how special it is.

When I imagined leaving, I imagined feeling relieved and having an experientially informed harsh realization of farming. When I left, however, I felt fulfilled, but I felt guilty and sad to be leaving when there was so much work to be done. I felt like I was abandoning everything for which I had worked over the past three weeks. Farming is still a very romantic lifestyle in my eyes, and I have many hopes to integrate farming into my life no matter where or what I am doing. I want to wake to roosters cockadoodledoing and cows mooing to be milked. I want to have to scrub my fingernails before meals to get the dirt out from underneath. With antiseptic soap. Hard.

## SPRING TRIP









# Save the Date!

## CRMS Alumni Reunion & Celebration: August 7-9th, 2015

While all are welcome, we offer a special welcome to alumni and faculty from: '54 through '79, '85, '90, '00, '05, '10

Questions? Interested in helping?  
Contact Laura at [lmccormick@crms.org](mailto:lmccormick@crms.org) or 970-963-2562

### RECAP — 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

By Renee Ramge

Colorado Rocky Mountain School celebrated a memorable 60th Anniversary in a three-day celebration, April 10-13th, 2014. The school welcomed 250+ alumni and guests to campus from all over the country and world. The many activities included speakers, panels, Coffee House, dedication of the school's new library, a Book-It-Brigade, community and class gatherings, a campus tour, observing work crews, reunion and a memorial service.

Special guests for the 60th Anniversary were CRMS founders John and Anne Holden's family from Switzerland, including Ben Holden '57 (son) and his wife Joan, and the founders' granddaughters Tara Holden '92 and Erin Holden. Ben and Tara opened the festivities by sharing with the students, alumni, and guests an intimate history of the school and memories of John and Anne.

One of the many highlights of the weekend was the dedication of the school's new beautiful library. The event included a biodegradable balloon launch and a celebratory Book-It-Brigade.

In preparing for the dedication, a student work crew researched what dangers to the environment are caused from a balloon launch. What they discovered was that latex balloons biodegrade at the same rate as an oak leaf, and that much of the damage is caused from the ribbon commonly attached to the balloon. To resolve these issues, the crew found a supplier of biodegradable ribbon and latex balloons that were used. It was spectacular to see 160 balloons sprint off into the sky with literary quotes, of course on 100% biodegradable paper.

In the spirit of tradition, the guests, made up of donors, Trustees, students, alumni and friends, gathered in a book-it-brigade line to pass along the last of the books from the old library in the Barn to the new library in the center of campus. "Bucket-brigades" were historically practiced on campus in order to put out fires — before the school was covered by local fire departments — and are still commonly used today by students to transfer gear for their trips.

Happy Anniversary, Colorado Rocky Mountain School, and thank you to all who were able to attend, participate, and celebrate with the community.



Alumni gathered in the barn to hear guest speakers.



Past parent Lester Price, Jackson Emmer '05, and Julia Hedman '06 performing at Coffee House



## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

— COMPILED BY LAURA MCCORMICK &  
ANA MINEO —

At Colorado Rocky Mountain School we treasure news from our alumni! And our vibrant alumni community loves sharing updates on their lives with CRMS friends. We hope you enjoy catching up with news of our alumni as much as we have! Also, if you have news to share, please send your update to [amineo@crms.org](mailto:amineo@crms.org).

'57

**Bill Dumont** writes: I am still ranching even in the Southwest drought situation. Susan and I are planing a cruise thru the Panama Canal in late February & early March. We are both enjoying our grand kinds -two in Prescott, AZ and two in Pueblo, CO. Matt our oldest has two more years until retirement from the army at Fort Carson. Ben is in construction around the state of AZ. He is the youngest one.

'73

**Rebecca Furr Ivester** reports: I'm still living in Charleston, SC with my husband, Jules, still playing the flute, writing when I can, meditating. Our children are fine so I can't complain. Life is good!

'77

**Tim Kinzler** says: Ceo for Keller Williams Realty in Boca Raton. Leading a team of 150 Realtors helping people obtain the American Dream. CRMS culture laid the foundation for my contributing to my community/building up others with purpose

Class of 1982

**Elizabeth Ellerbe Agar**, "No big news to report. Both daughters are in college. We are about to go visit our younger daughter out in CA. My mom needed more care than we could give her, so she has moved into an assisted living home near our house. I

still check on her every day and take her out often. I'm still working on our fixer-upper house as well as supporting our military families. Life is good and busy!"

**Becca Arndt** took time out from the Olympic coverage to write, "I'm watching women's skeleton on the plinking with women diving head down on a sled looking like a cookie sheet beneath them at amazing speeds. Seems like life this year. We sold our house in Paonia just two weeks before one of the big coal mines shut down, crashing the real estate market. We are building a life in Durango. We're loving the energy of Durango! This town really shows up for events with joy and enthusiasm (and beer). We are enjoying sampling restaurants and great amenities like the rec. center, ski areas and concert halls. Starting business over again is challenging. I find that I have been introspective about my work and its value. We're still having fun cycling, skiing, canoeing, hiking and loving our aging canine friends."

**Kate Bennis**, "The biggest news is that Kate Hall took me paddle boarding for my 50th birthday! A wonderful way to start the decade! I feel so lucky to have CRMS alums still present and dear in my life! Nina McKee, Zanna Zuckerman Yardas, Kate Hall, and recently back in touch with Soryl Stanley - Thank you Facebook. The kids are loving soccer and mountain biking. And we all love Charlottesville. Hal and I are working together in his consulting company where I head up the communication practice - coaching speakers. I am loving this work as it uses my theater background."

**Stevens Brosnihan Bennett** writes "Over the holidays, I participated in a popup retail store called 'Present' and created a large body of artwork to

display and sell. I just posted a selection of the work on my art site: [http://stevens-brosnihan.com/gallery/main.php?g2\\_itemId=736](http://stevens-brosnihan.com/gallery/main.php?g2_itemId=736) . It's comprised of large format photographs, drawings and watercolors of oysters and imaginary reefs. Photography is a logical extension of painting for me and allows me to squeeze more art making into the small amount of personal time I have. I just finished a python programming certificate program with O'Reilly School online and am nearly halfway through a course on embedded systems, which covers using the C language to program micro controllers, embedded computers that are used in all manner of applications, including robotics, electronics, cars, toasters, art, whatever! This is training at my current job as a Systems Administrator at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where I'm entering my 14th year, 12 of those as a remote employee. I'm hoping to shift to a Systems Engineer position as my duties become more programmatic and conceptual in nature. Lara is still expanding her Backyard Growers program which helps low- to moderate-income families grow food in their own back yards and helps our public schools to integrate school gardens into their cultures. That and our own urban farm are slowly but tangibly having a positive impact on our community. More people are growing their own food and we're helping them do that in Gloucester! I can't believe how quickly Willa and Beatrix are growing up. At 11 and seven respectively, they both have crossed into the 'age of reason,' a really great time to be a parent, IMHO. They are keeping us on our toes, for sure. Willa is a budding author and Bea is working towards getting on the local YMCA gymnastics team. They both love theater and art too.

...1982 continued

**Eric Brown de Colstoun** reports, “I send all the best thoughts and wishes to the entire CRMS community on the eve of the 60th Anniversary... I am working at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center outside of DC where I am a Physical Scientist studying our changing home from satellite data and also coordinate Earth Science education and public outreach. Please send me a note if you have interest in NASA educational content for your kids/schools/educators. I believe I am an Earth Scientist in many ways because of the service in, and exposure to, the natural environment that I received at CRMS. I am very grateful. What kid on Earth wouldn’t be humbled by waking up at the foot of Mt. Sopris every morning? :) All the best”

**Leila Gass** says, “I seem to be celebrating the gift of 50 years on this beautiful planet with visits to and from family and friends, plus a few adventures thrown in. Last year I spent a stupendous week on a tall ship in the Bahamas, sailed in the tall ship parade in San Diego’s Festival of Sail, and spent Thanksgiving on my boyfriend’s sailboat in San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico. I also did a little backpacking, and traveled to central Texas, Santa Fe, Denver, and northern California. This year I’m looking forward to skiing, more sailing, and backpacking in Glacier National Park, as well as more time with my dear friends and family. I miss my horse and cat when I leave home, so maybe next year I’ll be a homebody...beautiful Tucson is an excellent place to do that!”

**Heather Amaryllis** checks in from Hood River, OR, “Harrison Ruffin is helping me at Shredalert when I need it. Our biggest news is once again we made 12,000 hats out of recycled soda bottles for Repreve one of the sponsors of the x-games! If anyone watched the

half pipe events everyone at the games was wearing one of the hats we made. Each hat has six soda bottles in the fabric. Thanks to everyone who recycles! Harrison and I have also been rock climbing and kiteboarding here in Oregon and in Mexico. We have three amazing dogs the latest is a rescued Doberman who is in love with our Akita puppy. Noa’s band, Walter and the Conqueror, released an album Bears in Houses which is on iTunes and Pandora!!!! Rio is a sophomore and into skiing and kiteboarding, Jessica is 14 and is all about hip hop dance and lacrosse. My best to every one!”

**Zanna Zuckerman Yardas** writes, “I just got back from Argentina where my husband and I were visiting Beth Franklin Cushman ‘81 and her husband, Bob. We live in northern VA in the Washington DC metro area. I have three kids... first born about to graduate from high school. I am starting a new health and wellness business in the metro area that incorporates massage therapy, breath work, and visual empowerment to release and reduce the chronic build up of stress.”

’83

**Lee Hall**, “Still working hard to pull our tight-knit little community back together after the September floods. The cohesiveness here in Lyons is delightfully reminiscent of the CRMS community.”

’01

**Gueorgui “George” Nikiforov** writes, “For better or worse, my life so far has been full of getting to know various cultures. After I left the US in 2005, I lived for two years in Switzerland (although the Alps are certainly incredible, I was missing the Aspen Highlands), then half a year in France, four years in the UK, then a year back

in Bulgaria. Since March last year I’ve been in Okinawa, Japan. It’s the first time for me to live on a tropical island and I’m really loving it. My house is right on the beach, so I can go swimming and snorkeling every morning before work (that is if there is no typhoon). I’ve swapped hiking and skiing for diving and surfing and it’s a lot of fun. However, I still do miss the mountains, so last winter I felt the urge to go to Hokkaido for ten days of skiing. The powder in Japan is truly amazing! I don’t really know what I’ll be doing in the future, but I’m thinking that it might be a good idea to check out what life is like in South America...All the best!”

’10

**Mima Strong**

“I will be graduating from St. John’s College in Santa Fe in May, 2015. I love it here and would like to encourage current CRMS students to check it out when they begin their college searches.”

## REMEMBERING LAURA KOCH EMANUEL ’55



Laura Koch Emanuel

Laura Elizabeth Emanuel (née Koch), born April 13, 1937 in Evanston, Ill, was united with our Heavenly Father May 26, 2014, following a brave battle with cancer. She is survived by her sister Winnie Fernandez (CRMS ’57), brother-in-law Pelayo Fernandez and their five children, daughters Rivka Dawn Vaughs, Martica Aida Casías and son Frank Lawrence Emanuel, sons-in-law Don Paul Askey, Steve Casías, and five grandchildren: Elías, Trevor, Melissa, Ellis, and Olivia Grace. Until the age of nine, Laura



lived in Lake Forest, Ill. She later moved to Colorado, then to California and lastly New Mexico. Laura was a brilliant student. She had a B.A. from Harvard University Magna cum Laude, an M.A. in education from Adams State College, and an M.A. in Special Education from the University of New Mexico. She was a social worker in Los Angeles early in her career before she became dedicated to helping students as an educator. She had a 30-year career, teaching children with severe learning disabilities in Taos, Questa, Peñasco and Santa Fe.

Laura had many passions in life including music, art and swimming competitively in the Senior Olympics. She was a member of St. Bede's Episcopal church in Santa Fe and served in the choir for over 25 years.

Based on the obituary published in The Taos News on June 3, 2014

## REMEMBERING JOHN AND ANNE'S YOUNGEST SON, SAM



Sam Holden

Samuel Lynde Holden, the youngest son of John and Anne Holden, died suddenly July 7 of a ruptured aortic aneurysm. He was born on July 23,

1944 in Brattleboro, Vermont.

He came to Carbondale as a nine year old with his parents, brother Ben, and foster brother Tom Russell, in 1953 when CRMS was founded. While he never attended CRMS as a student, he lived with his parents in a room in the main house until he left for Colorado Academy in Denver.

A wanderer, Sam moved around the western states throughout his adult life, always returning to the Valley. He held many jobs from truck driver to chef and

he was also a skilled natural stonemason. He was loved and respected by many. He had his two sons, Peter and Scott, with his first wife Elizabeth Crismon. His second marriage was to Fran Page, and in 1998 he married Kim with whom he welcomed the arrival of his daughter Savannah almost thirteen years ago.

Established in Snowmass, a devoted father and husband to Savannah and Kim, Sam is also survived by sons Peter Spencer Holden and Scott Robert Holden, brother Ben, foster sister Rusty, daughter-in-law Jennyfer, grandchildren Aspen, Bailey and Spencer and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Sam attended the opening evening of the 60th Anniversary celebrations in April with his wife and daughter.

## REMEMBERING MIKE ADLER



Mike Adler

Michael (Mike) Adler was born on April 8, 1940 and adopted by Mortimer J. Adler and Helen Leavenworth Boynton Adler from the cradle in Chicago, Illinois. He grew up in Chicago and

San Francisco, spending summers on a family compound on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, until the age of eight. Beginning in 1949, he spent summers in Aspen, Colorado, where his father founded the Aspen Institute. He attended Colorado Rocky Mountain School, and was drafted from Pitkin County in 1958, serving five years in the United States Army. Three children were born during his marriage to Ann Williams Witte of Omaha, Nebraska. He is survived by his children Sandi "Treasure" Elliott of Grand Junction, Colorado, Peter (Debbie) Adler, of Arvada, Colorado, and Jennifer Adler of Omaha, Nebraska. After military service, he worked 19 years for Mutual of Omaha

as an underwriting manager. He married his soul mate and current wife, Pam Christensen, on June 4, 1977. From this union, Morgan (Justin) Leeson of Fruita, Colorado, was born. Mike is preceded in death by his parents, and survived by his wife, Pam, three brothers, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. After retiring from Mutual of Omaha, he held a variety of jobs. But his greatest joy was volunteering in service to others, especially America's youth. For five years, he coordinated the Garfield/Pitkin County Fair which focused on 4H, FFA, and Rodeo club members. Mike and Pam lived in Grand Junction where he was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2009. Doctors told him he had only months to live. However, his passion for Aspen Camp was a substantial reason for his beating the odds. His many hours of volunteer service to Aspen Camp brought forth a new board of trustees and a renaissance of the only year-round camp serving deaf and hard of hearing people from around the globe. He revived the Deaf Camp Picnic last July and worked to bring music to the mountains again this July 18 & 19. On April 8, 2014, surrounded by his children, grandchildren and friends, he celebrated his 74th birthday. In the early hours of April 17, 2014, Mike lost his battle with cancer just hours after his last Aspen Camp committee meeting. Over the years, Mike served on the CRMS Alumni Board and volunteered as an alumni class rep. In recent years, he was a frequent visitor to the CRMS campus when his volunteer work took him up-valley, and a faithful attendee at CRMS reunions and local alumni gatherings. Many lives are forever touched by his generosity, humor, kindness and spirit. In lieu of flowers, Mike requested memorial gifts be made to Aspen Camp, 4862 Snowmass Creek Road, Snowmass, Colorado, 81654 ([www.aspencamp.org](http://www.aspencamp.org)), or a memorial tree for the Monument Presbyterian Church (<http://monumentpc.org/>).

Based on the Aspen Times obituary published April 23, 2014.



**COLORADO ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN SCHOOL**  
500 Holden Way, Carbondale, CO 81623

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Permit No. 1673  
Denver, CO

**PARENTS OF ALUMNI:**

If this newsletter is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please e-mail [amineo@crms.org](mailto:amineo@crms.org) with his/her new address.

## THE 2013-14 OYSTERMEISTER COMES TO A CLOSE

With students competing in events that symbolized the overall athletics on the CRMS campus, participants had to compete in six out of the seven Oystermeister events for their scores to be counted in the overall standings. Events included competitions in biking, running, climbing, Nordic skiing, alpine skiing, kayaking, and swimming.

Master of Ceremonies Kayo Ogilby, pictured above, created special trophies that truly captured the spirit of the school mascot, and this year's overall winners were treated to an organic serving of real Rocky Mountain Oysters.

The winners of the 2013-2014 Oystermeister were:

**Girls:** Nicole Lipe, Tashi Brundige, Ruby Cherry\*, Ana-Maria Lizarraga\* (\*Tied for 3rd)

**Boys:** Nic Reitman, Cormac McGeough, Dylan Crane



Above: pictures from the Oystermeister celebration.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Colorado Rocky Mountain School cultivates a learning environment in which students discover their potential to excel as individuals, contribute to their communities, and participate thoughtfully in the world we share.