

CRMS

A photograph of hikers on a trail in a mountainous area. In the foreground, a hiker is seen from behind, wearing a large backpack with a red and yellow bag on top. The trail leads into a valley with green fields and dense evergreen forests in the background under a bright sky.

Colorado Rocky Mountain School Newsletter Issue 1 Fall 2016

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Photo: Spring Trip 2016

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Jeff Leahy, Head of School



CRMS founders John and Anne Holden

After over a decade as the head of school, I decided to read the Holdens' manuscript on the origin of the school and its early days. When I took on this task, I was already familiar with the "Source Book" that Mark Clark put together in celebration of the school's 50th anniversary. Mark's collection of selected passages from John Holden's book has been a great resource for all of us, as it is required reading for all our new faculty members and effectively introduces the reader to the major themes that remain hallmarks of the CRMS program and philosophy. The reader understands the passion of the founders, the people – faculty, staff, and students – who early on made a difference for the school, and the general idea behind the academic program, the outdoor trips, and the work of which the students become a part. The chapters that make up the remainder of John's book are passages that have given me as the head of school a much deeper appreciation for how challenging it was for John (and Anne) to find the perfect location for their school – and how important the "right" location was to them.

Much of this, I suspect, has to do with the progressive influence of Putney's founder, Carmalita Hinton, under whom they had worked for almost two decades before setting out to start Colorado Rocky Mountain School. They had directly experienced the importance of having students be involved daily in the community through the work program as well as the importance of having a curriculum that was balanced by the arts. The Holdens were steadfast in their belief that the school needed to have an agricultural component and that any location with a short growing season would simply not do, even if it was perfect in every other way. John also preferred wide open valleys with scenic mountains, instead of the narrow canyons where some properties were available. Salida was considered early on because it could support the agricultural program that they envisioned and a ski hill was not far away; Steamboat Springs (which would welcome a boarding school founded by Lowell Whiteman a few years after John and Anne had settled on the Roaring Fork Valley) was also on their list for similar reasons, but John reports that those locations seemed to be missing a critical piece and both had transportation challenges as compared with the convenience of Glenwood Springs and the railway.

Early on in the process, the Holdens missed out on acquiring an unidentified piece of property because they were late in making an offer. For a while, John regretted being slow to snap it up, as he was left contemplating a ranch up Four Mile Road above Glenwood until his good friend Ted Moore (who passed away last year) advised him that the water access would only be seasonal and not ideal for his purposes. Neither was the Redstone Castle, which they considered at \$130,000; while the living quarters would immediately be better than what the students would live in during the early days of the school, they assumed that

the environment would not inspire a sense of service in the students beyond serving as waitstaff. Up in Aspen, Castle Creek was considered too narrow, and as such lacking natural light throughout the winter months. As John would drive up and down the valley between Glenwood and Aspen, he would longingly look over at the Woody Creek ranches for a potential site, but in those days there was nothing available to be purchased, and in retrospect one would assume that the distance to any town would make it more isolating for a boarding school than the property they ultimately settled on along the Roaring Fork Valley.

The entire venture of starting a school was a huge gamble on the Holdens' part. Early in the process they remained undeterred in their pursuit, even though in the early 1950s they were told by a trustee of a Denver-based independent school that Colorado didn't have enough students to meet demand. The Holdens sacrificed secure jobs, a comfortable life, and a beautiful home to set out and start a school program that they truly believed in.

From the outset, they were interested in strong academics and meaningful work, and the importance of infusing those qualities in their students, who they believed had been robbed by modern, easy living. The Holdens' emphasis on location reflects much of the progressive movement's emphasis on the importance of the learning environment and the student experience. In the end, the school has been given the flexibility to embrace new programming, particularly in how we use our location in the west, to achieve John and Anne's original broadly defined goals and philosophy.

2015-2016 OYSTERMEISTER COMES TO A CLOSE

Kayo Ogilby

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 created special trophies that truly captured the spirit of the school mascot. In addition, the winners had to eat the Rocky Mountain oysters which were deep fried before the ceremony.

The winners of the 2015-2016 Oystermeister were, Girls: 1st - Lauren Murphy, 2nd - Emily Wiley, 3rd - Ruby Marker; Boys: 1st - Ian Catto, 2nd - Topher Blachly, 3rd - Angus Harley; Faculty/Parents-Women: 1st - Meghan Detering, 2nd - Rachel Bachman, 3rd - Robin Colt; Men: 1st - Kayo Ogilby, 2nd - Alex Perkins, 3rd - Bobby Rosati.



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DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ARE CRMS VALUES

Bob Ward, Freelance Writer



Miller Roman didn't know what to expect when he left Mexico for his first year at Colorado Rocky Mountain School. But the first thing the student noticed upon his arrival in Carbondale was that every faculty member knew his name before he even introduced himself.

Then, at the first international student dinner of the year, Roman could hardly believe his eyes when "the head of school took his time to meet every single student." This friendly and welcoming spirit permeated every aspect of school life, from the help he gave and received while moving into the dorm to the encouragement he heard from his classmates on his first after-school mountain bike ride.

Now, as he prepares to begin his senior year at CRMS, here's how he describes the culture:

"Overall, coming to CRMS was probably the best decision I ever made. The people here all wanted to be here, and being at school wasn't a chore for them. The second you showed up, you knew you could be yourself and that people would value that."

CRMS is different in many ways from most high schools, from the academic rigor to the unique arts and sports programs to the small size and the mountain setting. But the welcoming, inclusive environment is easily overlooked unless you're an outlier — someone who has traveled from a foreign country or someone who simply lives their life outside U.S. social norms.

The uncommon openness of CRMS teachers, administrators and students made an immediate impression on Roman, who started at the school as a junior and is going into his senior year. Arguably it has made an even bigger difference for LJ Robertson, a transgender student who will be a junior in 2016-17. Robertson, who came to the school as a freshman, was one of four students who came out at all-school meetings during LGBT Pride Month last spring, and admits to being nervous and rushing through their announcement.

"I actually ended up getting a standing ovation, which I kind of ignored as I ran offstage," Robertson recalled. "But it was a really big thing for me, and it

has given me hope that we'll continue to receive that kind of reaction."

Earlier in the spring semester of 2016, Robertson and a group of like-minded friends formed a school club called the Justice League, which they have used to promote awareness about social justice issues including LGBT rights and race relations. Against the backdrop of national debates about transgender bathrooms and police shootings of black men, Robertson and friends launched the Justice League with the help of admissions officer Tracy Wilson to spur discussions and debate on campus.

"Part of what drew me to the school was you get the sense that bringing awareness to social issues and talking about what's important to you is encouraged," Robertson said. "I really appreciate that about CRMS."

Diversity of culture, nationality and opinion has been an important value at CRMS for decades, since the school began welcoming and recruiting foreign students in the 1960s. Katie Hyman, director of the school's international program, says the

international component of the CRMS student body now stands between 15 and 20 percent from year to year.

"It always enriches the CRMS student body to have people from all different places and all different perspectives," Hyman said. "Diversity is a buzzword nowadays, but really there's not an area at CRMS that doesn't benefit from any kind of difference in perspective. In the classroom it's huge."

Specifically, Hyman mentioned A.O. Forbes' World Geography classes and Dave Meyer's history classes as venues where international students can bring healthy and varied perspectives about governments, social customs and military conflicts. Over the last six years, students from 28-plus countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas have attended CRMS, offering their thoughts in both classroom and social venues and enriching school life in various international-themed activities. Since roughly 40 percent of the CRMS student body consists of day students from the Roaring Fork Valley, the international kids play an extra-large role in the school dormitories. And that considerably enhances dorm life.

"Our residential program is really about learning to live with other people, and it doesn't matter if they're domestic or international," Hyman said. "Really it's about recognizing other people's needs, respecting those needs and learning to live harmoniously."

Sunday Suppers are one way that the international students get to shine, she added. This coming academic year will be the third time that a Mexican fiesta has kicked off the school year, and other dinner themes have centered on

Spain, Slovakia and a Chinese-tinged Lunar New Year.

"Food is the gathering point," Hyman said. "It's such a fun way to share culture through flavor."

In a similar vein, last April featured an "International Fun Week" akin to a high school spirit week but with an emphasis on cultural education. Each day of the week was devoted to a different language and culture. The lunch meals in the Bar Fork complemented the particular country or region of the day, and the students put together educational fliers for each day to adorn the lunch tables.

Who says Carbondale is like living in a bubble?

As part of the Justice League's awareness-raising campaign, last spring included a series of Pride Month activities, punctuated by the all-school meetings with speeches from the students who came out to the school community, and a Day of Silence to honor LGBT students who have been effectively silenced about their sexuality by fear, intimidation or harassment. On that day, some teachers even conducted their classes in silence, communicating through written means.

Robertson recalled that 61 people pledged to remain silent on that day and said, "it was really heartening to see people signing up."

Wilson, who acts as the Justice League's sponsor, said the level of support from other students has empowered the 20-or-so club members.

"All these straight kids who you

wouldn't expect to care about this stuff, they totally stood up," Wilson said. "They showed that solidarity. The Justice League kids really realized, 'it's not just us.'"

As in any social movement, Wilson said, the core group of supporters needs mainstream allies and advocates in order to make progress, and CRMS has certainly provided that kind of boost to the Justice League.

Long story short, CRMS can be seen as a surprisingly diverse, one-of-a-kind village on Colorado's Western Slope where respect, understanding and tolerance generally carry the day. Consciously or subconsciously, this ethos influences just about everyone who spends time on campus and arguably overflows into the town of Carbondale as well.

To some in the CRMS community, these values are especially important. Karen Schmidt, LJ's mother, is extremely grateful that a friendly and welcoming community surrounds her child.

"From their advisor on that first family weekend to the school counselor all the way to Jeff Leahy at the top, we've met nothing but complete supportiveness and a desire to do anything and everything in the school's power to support LJ," Schmidt said.

Importantly, however, it's never been solely about LJ Robertson, Schmidt added. "From what I've seen, it is something that pervades the culture of the school."

CRMS SPENDS SUMMER GIVING INNER-CITY SCHOLARS A BOOST

reprinted from the Post Independent article by John Stroud - July 25, 2016

Mt. Sopris is symbolic in a lot of ways for 73 high school students who just spent the last five weeks studying and getting acquainted with the outdoors through a special science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) enrichment program at Colorado Rocky Mountain School in Carbondale.

It's a distant, yet reachable destination that embodies the challenges that lie ahead for each of the participants in the High School High Scholar (HS)² academic camp.

Founded in 2007 by Fort Worth, Texas, philanthropists and part-time Roaring Fork Valley residents Mollie and Garland Lasater, the program invites low-income, minority students from Dallas-Fort Worth and other inner-city schools to set a path toward a college education.

"These young people are all raised by parents who didn't graduate from college, and many of them didn't graduate high school," notes Janis

Taylor, who teaches chemistry in the (HS)² program and is a teacher at Coal Ridge High School during the regular school year.

"If we picture the game of getting into and graduating from college as a playing field, the field for these kids isn't just uphill. It's rocky and thorny and sometimes truly unsafe," Taylor said. "This program gives the students support to take some of the bumps out of the playing field."

Earlier this month, 33 of the (HS)² students, including several of the 22 graduating seniors who successfully completed the three-year program and graduated on Friday, split up into groups to climb Mt. Sopris.

"Many of these kids have never hiked before, and to see the encouragement they get from their peers is incredible to watch," Cindy Blachly, (HS)² program director for CRMS, said. "They won't let each other fail."

"As a private school with a public purpose, what we strive to do with this program is serve a different demographic and expose students from other parts of the country to rigorous academics and the outdoor opportunities we have here," Blachly said.

In addition to the traditional Sopris hike, the students are also exposed to activities such as kayaking, rock climbing, music, blacksmithing, silversmithing and glass-making.

"It's a great way to get away from the city and experience the mountain life," said Christopher Mireles, one of this year's (HS)² graduates from

San Antonio, Texas. "It's taught me so much about myself and how we can help each other."

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

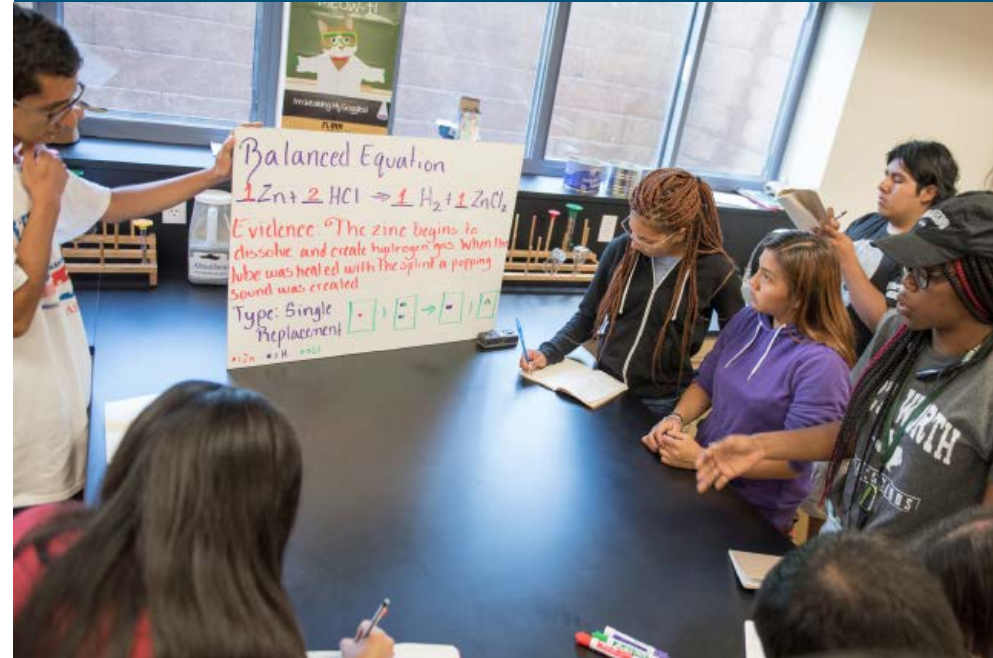
(HS)² was begun by the Lasaters in collaboration with the Aspen Science Center and CRMS, and for the first four years was managed by the Science Center before CRMS took over the program in 2010. The Science Center still hosts a weekly barbecue and science project showcase as part of the camp.

The program was modeled after the successful Math and Science for Minority Students (MS)² program at the Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass.

To qualify, students must come from a traditionally underserved community including African American, Latino or Native American, come from a low-income family as determined by qualifying for free or reduced fee lunch, be the first generation in their family to set their sights on college, rank in the top 10 percent of their class academically, and have a passion for STEM learning.

Currently, the program partners with qualified students from public schools in Fort Worth, Dallas and San Antonio, Texas; New Orleans; Bronx and Brooklyn, New York; Fort Myers, Florida, and Denver. One private school, the Cristo Rey Institute in New York City, also participates.

The program is free of charge to the participants. Funding from the Mollie and Garland Lasater Charitable Trust and a variety of other foundation grants and individual donors covers



the \$21,000 cost per student to attend the three-year program starting the summer after their freshman year in high school.

"When you invest in education, you are making a difference," Mollie Lasater says in the 2015 (HS)² annual report. "You are turning lives around." The program has grown from just 12 students that first year to 65 students last summer and to 73 this year.

Between 2009 and 2014, 100 percent of the participating students have graduated and gone on to attend college at prestigious universities and colleges including Rice, Duke, MIT, Southern Methodist, Texas A&M, University of Texas, University of North Carolina, and, in Colorado, Regis and Colorado College.

"These kids come to our campus, and it's such a mind-blowing experience for them, because it's so different compared to where they come from," Blachly said.

Adds Taylor, "I know from listening to the students that this program is, for many of them, the first place they have

felt completely safe and loved.

"When the second- and third-year students refer to (HS)², they will most often use the words 'home' and 'family,'" she said. "Maybe a part of that is physical safety, and I'm sure a big part is emotional and intellectual safety."

TESTIMONIALS

Mireles would like to study biomedical engineering, and has his eye on Duke University as he enters his senior year of high school in San Antonio.

"This is just a phenomenal program, and I could never expect to be so fully immersed in academics and have these other activities like we have here," he said. "It's a place where we can all talk and relate to each other and really bond. It is like a second home."

Second-year students Osa Ibude and Christopher Green both attend Achievement First High School in Brooklyn, New York City, where they will be juniors this fall. They were recognized as high-performing

students when they were freshmen,

and it was recommended through their pre-collegiate program that they consider applying for (HS)².

Ibude also considered applying for Phillips' (MS)² but liked the outdoor component of the CRMS program and a chance to see the Rocky Mountains.

"Socially, it's really helped me because I get to meet different people from different cultures," he said. "Academically, I have gotten a lot more confident in my writing and speaking abilities, which will really help me develop my science and math skills."

Ibude is still weighing his college options but aspires to study criminology and would like to be an FBI agent someday. Green has an eye toward Georgetown University.

"I have benefited so much from the math classes and chemistry, and I know I will go back to school ahead of most of my class," Green said. "I recommend everybody who can to come here, because it really helps you succeed and prepare for college."

Green and Ibude will also be talking up the (HS)² program at their neighborhood middle school as they recruit new pre-collegiate students.

Rebecca Hernandez, who will be a senior at JFK High School in Denver this fall, also just graduated from (HS)² and credited the program with making it a realistic goal to study mechanical engineering, perhaps at Northwestern University.

"I just fell in love with the program when I first came here," she said. "I was scared at first to come to a place where I don't know anyone, but they really took us in and made us feel like we belong."



SPRING PLAY WRAP-UP

Roxanna Peskuski, Registrar and Theater Director

Last fall I asked Jeff Schlepp if I could help him with the spring play. I wanted to be more involved in the CRMS community and theater has always been a love of mine. Little did I know that by February I would be the director. After some medical complications Jeff had to step down and I had the choice between walking away or continuing, and in true theater fashion I felt the show must go on. The spring play was chosen by Jeff, just before winter break. I know that he wanted to do a comedy, but he had a handful of plays he wanted to produce. He ultimately decided on *The Butler Did It*, a comedy that Jeff had directed his first year at CRMS. It is about a wealthy old lady, Mrs. Maple, who invites her favorite mystery writers to come to a party as the main characters they have created. She is planning on opening a chain of mystery bookstores, and this party is to test the authors on their detective skills. If they succeed, Mrs. Maple will have their books on the shelves. She plans on playing some jokes in order to keep the authors on their toes the whole night. However, shortly after the authors arrive someone is murdered, turning the party into a true investigation complete with hidden passageways and assumed identities. The play has a lot of slap-stick comedy that kept the audience laughing and engaged. This was an amazing group of students that I had the pleasure of working with, both as actors and as tech crew. I look forward to working with some of them again this coming theater season, starting with the fall musical.



UPCOMING DRAMA PRODUCTION

WHAT: *Pippin, his life and times*

WHEN: November 10, 11, and 12 at 7:30 pm

WHERE: CRMS Barn

COST: \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and non-CRMS students

Life can be confusing, to say the least, knowing which way to go and which path to take. For Pippin, a young prince, this journey is just as confusing. The story of Pippin is one young man's journey to be extraordinary. A mysterious performance troupe, led by a Leading Player, helps to lead the audience in Pippin's quest for meaning, significance, passion, and adventure.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dan Pittz, Modern Language Faculty

I was granted a sabbatical this past school year, 2015-2016, after having taught for ten years here at CRMS. A full year's respite from a scheduled school year and the opportunity to reflect, pursue larger professional development, create and test new curricular lessons and just have a rest from work is an experience that I will forever cherish and be grateful for. There were innumerable learning moments that will continue to evolve and remain a part of who I am and what I share with others. It is impossible to share a year's events in an article, so here I will just share one:

Shortly after arriving in Oaxaca, Mexico, I sought out the Casa de

la Cultura. The Casa de la Cultura offers classes ranging from cooking to painting, folkloric dancing to photography. The fact that it was located near the city center and housed in a beautiful colonial building compelled me to register immediately for classes. I started the next Monday in a classical guitar class with one other student with whom I quickly bonded, a young man who had finished high school and was learning the guitar as the next step in his education. After following a steep learning curve both culturally and musically, I discovered that the end of the course included a showcase event for this teacher. Each instructor at the Casa de la Cultura is granted one opportunity a

year to show off their students. Well, it turns out that as a new student to the guitar with severe stage fright, the performance aspect of music was quite a challenge. I appreciated the beautiful music of students much younger than myself after struggling to perform to the best of my ability. Despite, or possibly due to, the challenge this performance presented, the next registration period found me signing up once again for the classical guitar class in addition to a popular Mexican guitar class. The process of learning something new, meeting the challenge and searching out the next has been incredibly motivating and will certainly continue on through the years.

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 award recipients are: Freshman - Soren Putney; Sophomore - Ian Catto; Junior - Morgan Young; Senior - Ian Stokes.**



Soren Putney and Baxter Waltermire



Ian Catto and Levi Gavette



Morgan Young and Tina Tan

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 - Baxter Waltermire; Sophomore - Levi Gavette; Junior - Tina Tan; Senior - Michael Yoshimura.**

"There is such a sense of community here, and we're getting the experience we need to go on to college," said Hernandez, who would like to maybe come back to CRMS and teach in the summer program.

Jessica Garza, a 2013 (HS)² alum, is doing just that. She graduated this spring from Southern Methodist University where she studied geology and math. She was back for the summer as a climbing instructor and alumni speaker as part of (HS)², and will be returning to CRMS full time as a teaching fellow this fall.

"This is a pretty unique program, and a lot of the schools these kids come from are not the greatest at preparing them to apply for and enter college," said Garza, who went to Amon Carter-Riverside High School in Fort Worth but was able to complete her senior year at CRMS.

"The teachers and staff really take care of you and make sure you're learning what you need to learn to go to college," she said. "I know it really opened my eyes to what was possible."

CRMS and (HS)² also turned her on to rock climbing, which has become one of her passions aside from her studies and career aspirations. Garza coached youth climbing teams during college, and has also done several competitions.

Blachly said the program has not been as successful in attracting Native American students but is looking for support to expand its reach into that segment of students.



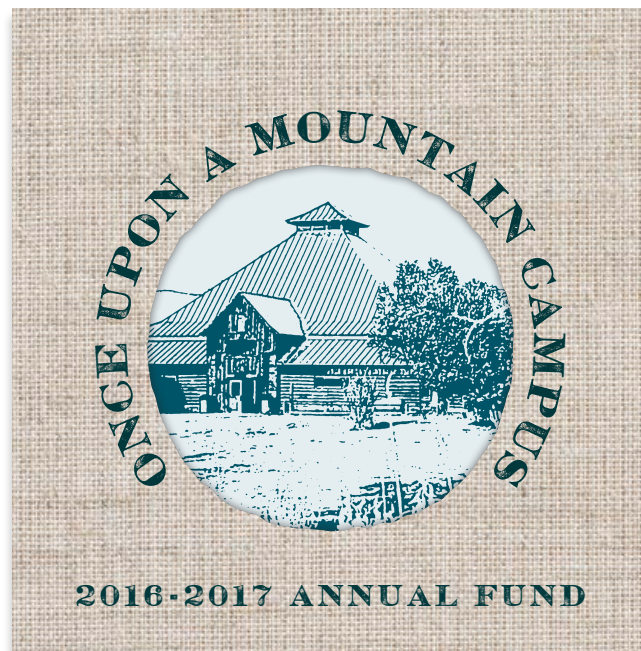
2015-2016 ANNUAL FUND AND SPECIAL EVENTS EXCEED \$675,000

Lisa Raleigh, Director of Advancement

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of 600-plus donors, and an unprecedented number of leadership-level supporters, the 2015-2016 Annual Fund & Special Events brought in \$678,000*. This is the largest amount ever given in our 63-year history. Part of this historic total included our Special Events fundraising efforts, contributing over \$70,000 to the total amount raised via our fall Family Weekend Raffle and Auction and our traditional Scholarship Work Day in the spring. Please look for a complete listing of all our supporters in the upcoming Winter Newsletter's Annual Report. 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 belief and investment; your generosity is enabling CRMS to continue to thrive.

**number pending final audit*



2016-2017 ONCE UPON A MOUNTAIN CAMPUS ANNUAL FUND UNDERWAY

We are delighted to announce our new Annual Fund campaign for 2016-2017 – *Once Upon a Mountain Campus*. This year's campaign highlights the school's history and unique story, and our combined Annual Fund and Special Events goal is \$675,000. The Annual Fund is a financial backbone of the school, as it underwrites financial need-based scholarships (ensuring economic diversity in our student body), faculty salaries and professional development (enabling us to recruit and retain the best teachers in the field of education), in addition to supporting the unique and robust CRMS program. To give today or to learn more, please contact Beth Smith (bsmith@crms.org), Director of Annual Giving. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support and consideration, and for adding pages and chapters to the CRMS story!

WHY GIVING MATTERS

"I support CRMS because, looking back on my life, it was the greatest educational experience per week of time invested that I ever had. After visiting the school recently, I am amazed at how CRMS has grown and modernized while, still holding true to core values of John and Anne Holden that make CRMS a truly magical place."

- Dr. Charlie Babbs, CRMS Board of Trustees and Alumnus, CRMS Summer Program '62

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

As we previously reported, while we successfully raised \$10,580,000 in the *Forging the Future // Preserving the Past* Capital Campaign, we continue to invest in and improve our facility infrastructure. Below please find the capital project improvements currently taking place on campus. To learn more or to support any of these capital projects, please contact Lisa Raleigh, Director of Advancement, at lraleigh@crms.org or 970-963-2562.

ALPENGLOW BASE CAMP (ABC)

The final building in the \$10M Capital Campaign is the new CRMS Active Center (named the Alpenglow Base Camp). The ABC is on schedule to be completed in September 2016 and will welcome students and faculty home upon their return from Fall Trip. This 4,500 sq. ft. custom-designed facility will support the robust and hallmark CRMS outdoor program and features a large covered outdoor space for trip prep and de-issue and dedicated rooms for gear storage, food prep, the bike and ski tuning shop, ski storage, and a large map and resource room. Located adjacent to the soccer field and bus parking area, its iconic architecture invites a visit – so please let us give you a tour of this innovative and highly functioning new facility next time you are on campus.

LODGE DORM

Thanks to the success of the \$10M+ Capital Campaign, the residential program was significantly improved with the construction of two new dormitories and the renovation of three others. The Solar and Lodge dorms, traditionally home to senior girls and boys respectively, are the final dorms in need of updating. The Solar and Lodge are located in the heart of the campus and require some functional and aesthetic improvements. The Lodge Dorm has been significantly improved over the summer and will welcome senior boys later this month. Improvements to the Lodge include:

- Expansion of the common area to make it larger and more inviting
- A kitchenette in the common room
- Complete bathroom renovation
- New flooring and paint throughout
- Energy efficiencies in heating, lighting, windows, and thermal envelope
- Addition of a new 800 sq.ft. faculty residence

NEW WOODY PASTURES FACULTY DUPLEX

Thanks to the robust role CRMS faculty members play, from teaching in the classroom to coaching in the outdoors to providing guidance and care in the residential program, we are constantly in need of additional faculty housing as our teachers all live on campus. This summer we began construction on a new duplex as part of the Woody Pasture residential complex. Both units will be 1,500 square feet and include two bedrooms (plus a study that can double as a third bedroom), sizeable mud room, outside storage, covered porches, and views of Mt. Sopris and Red Hill. The units are scheduled to be completed this December.

Did You Know?

"Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." – John Dewey

John Dewey, a 20th-century progressive educator and philosopher, was a strong influencer of CRMS founding principles. Dewey originally wrote about the benefits of experiential education in 1938, explaining, "there is an intimate and necessary relation between the processes of actual experience and education." Dewey contends that in order for education to be progressive there has to be an experiential component to the lesson. He argues that by focusing only on content, the teacher eliminates the opportunity for students to develop their own opinions of concepts based on interaction with the information (www.learnnc.org). John and Anne Holden built CRMS on many of Dewey's educational beliefs, and the school continues to honor and reflect the importance of experiential education in the classroom and beyond.

2016-2017 CRMS
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MEETING DATES

- September 16 - 17, 2016
- December 9 - 10, 2016
- February 10, 2017 video conference
- May 19 - 20, 2017



BOARD MEMBER PROFILE:
Grace Engbring

What inspired you to join the CRMS Board of Trustees? I have been involved in the Telluride Mountain School since its conception in 1995 as an administrator and board member. You might include janitor, coach, chauffeur, neighbor, donor, and of course parent as it was all-hands-on-deck to make the project work. At TMS we looked to CRMS as our mentor in the independent school world. In the past 63 years, CRMS has set the standards for blending experiential education with academics, and we at TMS have learned much from CRMS. I have been completely immersed in supporting schools since I realized that the only gift we can really give our kids is education. I think experiential education is essential to learning, and CRMS does that very, very well. The school is also in a great phase of its own growth and development and a great time to be involved. In 2013, my youngest became a student at CRMS, and from then on I had a very happy high school student. I was honored and delighted to be invited to join the board in 2013, but my son said something like “Hey, CRMS was my idea,” which I took as advice to back off until he graduated. To have the opportunity to join the board at this point in time is an incredible honor.

What do you value most about CRMS? CRMS allows kids to make mistakes. The school trusts the students. There is a wholesome unity in the school community as a result. The academics shine, and there is a level of engagement that somehow comes organically from the students. I think that’s the key to raising kids who are willing and able to make decisions for themselves.

What are you most excited about as you embark on your new role as Trustee? I am deeply honored and excited to begin my tenure as a Trustee of CRMS. I look forward to working with the board to advance the school and absorb everything I can about how CRMS does it so well. I’m hoping to share my expanded knowledge from this experience to advance education. School is one of my favorite subjects, so if I see you, beware; I might want to talk about schools a lot longer than most folks!



BOARD MEMBER PROFILE:
Charles F. Babbs, MD, PhD,
Summer 1962

What role has CRMS played in your life? Looking back, my brief summer sojourn at CRMS turned out to be the most positive educational experience, per unit of time invested, in my whole life. I became a lifelong backpacker with a love of the high

country. I learned practical lessons from our Mountaineering I teacher, Nigel Peacock, that I will never forget: how to coil a rope (add a half twist every turn), how to deal with tight boots that cause blisters (soak them thoroughly and let them dry on your feet), and how to talk in cockney rhyming slang (“tifer”: tit-for-tat rhymes with hat; “plates”: plate of meat rhymes with feet). More importantly, I learned that I could be a successful athlete in non-competitive, outdoor sports and that I could fit in as a member of a loving community. These things are huge for a vulnerable teenager. My experience at CRMS gave me the courage to go on with life in a positive way—to avoid descending into cynicism and despair.

What do you value most about CRMS? The sense of community is huge. The teachers at CRMS come across instantly as real people, known by their first names. They are diverse and interesting role models. They are just so cool. Respect for them comes naturally to students; it is not imposed from above. CRMS faculty members are Taoist leaders. They do not seek to lord it over the students and control them. Instead, they inspire and encourage students to become their best selves. They often teach without words, by example. They create a loving environment where students can explore and learn for themselves. They show students where to look, not what to see. John and Anne Holden spoke of the two-way stretch: the mental stretch and the physical stretch. Stretching is what teenagers need. In the process it is OK to fail. There were never any put-downs or ridicule—from faculty or from other students. We all just became stronger, smarter, and tougher together. It was great.

What are you most excited about as you embark on your role as a Trustee? I see CRMS as poised to go from good to great on a global stage. Right now CRMS is an excellent regional school. I see no reason why it cannot become the birthplace of positive leaders for the whole planet. What better place for young people to learn to value and protect the outdoor environment and to value and encourage their fellow human beings from diverse backgrounds and cultures? When I was a student at CRMS, I was thrilled to realize that half of the faculty members were European. I had never had a teacher from another country before. Nigel Peacock used to tell jokes in a fake American accent, as opposed to his normal British accent. It had never occurred to me, as a teenager, that Americans had accents. Our summer program director, Walter Kirschbaum, was from Germany and was a world-class slalom canoeist who won a gold medal in the folding K-1 event at the 1953 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships. His eight-year-old son could speak four languages. I hope to encourage recruiting of more faculty like Nigel and Walter for CRMS in the 21st century, as well as more students from diverse cultures and backgrounds, so that CRMS becomes a microcosm of the kind of global community that we need on this planet, where young people can grow to become open-minded world leaders, who will strive to create a safe, nurturing, verdant, and prosperous civilization for our children and grandchildren.

YESTERDAY
TODAY
FOREVER



Please consider including Colorado Rocky Mountain School in your estate or retirement plan in the form of a simple bequest or beneficiary. Your Planned Gift today helps ensure that CRMS is Forever.



COMMENCEMENT 2016

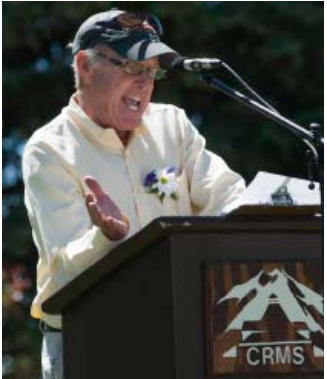
On June 4, 2016, 46 seniors prepared to embark on the next chapter of their lives. The morning commenced with families gathering on the lawn outside the Bar Fork for breakfast. Everyone was excited as the girls were given their floral halos and boys were pinned with boutonnieres. This was followed by the class picture. The graduation procession, led by Head of School Jeff Leahy, 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. Seniors took their seats while Zoey Steel and AO Forbes performed *Hallelujah* by Jeff Buckley. The ceremony opened with seniors Sophie Timms and Victor Henckel performing *Hey Jude* by the Beatles.

“vegan” diploma, and student music was played throughout including the entire senior class singing *Lean on Me* by Bill Withers. In addition, the seniors had selected two class representatives and faculty members to speak at the event. This year’s speakers included seniors Ian Stokes and Jacob Wexler. Faculty speakers were AO Forbes along with Jen and Kayo Ogilby.

Senior Ian Stokes shared experiences from his time at CRMS, focusing on how he’d come to view this class as a family. He mentioned each senior by name and a memory of their time together at CRMS.

After the commencement ceremony, the Class of 2016 and guests headed over to the Bar Fork for a delicious lunch graciously put together by the kitchen staff and parent volunteers.

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 with one



MATRICULATION LIST - CLASS OF 2016

American University	Colorado State University	University of Northern Colorado
Bennington College	Columbia College Chicago	Northwestern University
Bowdoin College	Cornell University	Pennsylvania State University
University of California, Santa Cruz	University of Denver	University of Puget Sound
Champlain College	The Evergreen State College	Quest University Canada
Chapman University	Florida State University	Rollins College
College of Charleston	Fort Lewis College	San Diego State University
University of Colorado at Boulder	Lehigh University	Trinity College
Colorado College	Lewis & Clark College	Westminster College
Colorado School of Mines	University of Maryland, College Park	Wheaton College MA

SENIOR PROJECT

Each senior organizes and carries out an independent, three-week project away from school and home, in which he or she works under a master, employer or with an organization. Upon their return to campus, seniors present their real-world learning experiences to peers, family, and a jury made up of students and faculty. Both the quality of the project completed and an oral presentation (a key opportunity to exhibit public-speaking skills) are evaluated, as is a reflective essay designed to help students chronicle their reflections and learning experiences.

Hannah Weinstein - I chose this project because I love and always have loved working with animals. I wanted to go to an animal rescue center because I wanted to feel like I was making a positive difference by helping animals who actually needed my care and help. Many of the animals are there because they used to be pets, most likely illegally because keeping a specie native to Costa Rica is illegal there, which means they feel comfortable around humans and can therefore no longer return to the wild. This means that my job to take care of these animals just meant cleaning their cages, giving them food, and keeping them as happy as they can possibly be in captivity. However, some of the animals required more than just food and water. Some, like the orphaned baby kinkajou, need to be bottlefed until they are old enough to fend for themselves and can be released back into the rainforest. However, in comparison to the injured animals, the highly dependent orphaned babies are in good shape. One resident at Proyecto Asis, a sloth, crawled onto a telephone wire, got electrocuted, and then fell to the ground. The sloth suffered a large, open wound on her thigh that exposed her bone. This sloth required special attention and to care for her I had to carry her to a sterile table where I would clean and apply ointment to her wound. But just because the sloth is hurt does not mean that she cannot heal. Various animals, like a caracara (a type of bird) with a broken leg, healed and were able to be released during my time there.

The animals I worked with were living at Proyecto Asis, which is located in San Pedro, Costa Rica. Almost every day that I volunteered there I worked with Maria Elena, the person who is in charge of the clinic with the baby (and usually orphaned) and injured animals. Each day I would remove the old food plates from the cages, clean the food plates, wash the cages, and then put more food in their cages. Some of the animals were too young to eat by themselves, which means that I got to feed them with a spoon or a bottle. I learned that with some of the sicker animals the key to keeping them healthy is perseverance. This is because the animal might not know that you are helping them when you try to feed them with a spoon, but after you figure out how to give the animal a few spoonfuls the animal realizes it is hungry and allows you to feed it without a struggle. I learned this when I was asked to feed some baby parrots. I would hold the parakeets in my hand and they would bite my hands and turn away from the spoon with food. But after I eventually got a few spoonfuls into the parrot's open mouth, the bird realized that it was hungry and began to open its mouth for me to ask for more food.

When leaving CRMS I thought I would mostly just learn about the animals I worked with at the rescue center. However, my learning experience went beyond just how to care for rescued animals. I learned a lot about Costa Rican culture and customs, such as how Costa Ricans greet each other by saying "pura vida." I also learned about and got to

try a lot of typical Costa Rican food that was all made by my host mom, Carmen. One day I even got to help Carmen make tortillas from scratch. All you need to do to make tortillas is mix corn flour and water, use a press to press them into their flat shape, and then fry them. While learning about authentic Costa Rican cooking, I was simultaneously learning more Spanish because my host family does not speak any English. My learning experience went far more in depth than I expected it to. The person who I learned the most from was Maria Elena, the person who runs Proyecto Asis's clinic. I learned from her not only how to deal with very sick or very young animals, but also I learned some Spanish vocabulary words because she also does not speak any English.

This experience has changed me because I learned that most of the



animals were there because of something humans did, whether it was keeping an agouti as a pet or orphaning a three month old sloth by hitting its mother with a car. This knowledge has changed me because I realized that many animal rescue centers would not have nearly as many animals forced to stay in captivity if it were not for human actions.

I think that this project will play a role in future career plans because I do want to work with animals in the future. At the project I felt bad that there was not more I could do to help the sick and injured animals. I hope that in the future I can be trained so that I will be able to help heal more animals and release them back into the wild to give them a better life.

If I were to make a recommendation to a student considering a similar project I would tell them to be prepared to see animals that are hurt and need your help. The center is a rescue center for a reason and not all of the animals are cute and cuddly and feeling their best.

However, there are some, like the three-month-old sloth, that give you hugs and make you never want to leave.



SENIOR PROJECTS

2016 SENIOR PROJECTS

- Water Quality
- Cuba-Culture, Dance, Arts
- Sailing - Environmental Education
- Dolphin Research Center
- Liquid Logic Kayak Internship
- Dragonfly Ranch Volunteer
- Avocado Farming
- McLaren Car Dealership
- Spain - Cultural Immersion
- US Cycling and CNE Certification
- Community Sailing
- Theatre District Internship
- Bulgaria - Bicycle Company
- KALW Radio Internship
- England - Creative Writing
- Austria - Goldsmith Internship
- Inner Workings of a Golf Course
- Guitar Building Internship
- Denver Homeless Out Loud
- Bridging Bionics
- Skate Park Development
- Mesosphere Computer Internship
- Raft Guide Certification
- Italy - Adventure and Art
- 4 Corner School
- Beekeeping and Urban Gardening
- Exploring Fine Woodworking
- Climbing Gym Internship
- Costa Rica Animal Rescue
- Affordability Hepatitis C Treatment
- Aerospace Internship
- Habitat for Humanity
- Muse Event Planning Internship
- Nicaragua Language & Service
- Energy and Engineering

SPRING TRIP

Spring Trip allows the entire school to undertake expeditions that explore the mesas, rivers, and canyons of the American Southwest. Students and faculty embark on exciting and challenging experiences that build upon skills learned during Wilderness and Fall Trip. Students discover more about their strengths as they realize their individual roles within group settings.



1955

Michael Mechau

Mike Mechau’s father’s art work was exhibited in Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center through May 2016. A beautiful reissue of Cile Bach’s book, *Frank Mechau Colorado Artist*, is available at local bookstores and galleries in Carbondale, Redstone and Grand Junction, as well as Amazon, Tattered Cover, and Barnes & Noble.

1961

Joanna Beachy (Ganong)

Right now we are starting to prepare for a month of sailing - San Juan Islands and Canadian Gulf Islands - and we plan our return to coincide with fine weather in the Olympic Mts for hiking and camping. I am still making jewelry for one gallery on Bainbridge Island. Life is good!

Lansing Palmer

Just Attended My 50th Reunion At Yale; CRMS was one of the stepping stones that got me there. Thanks!

1963

David Owens

Gloria and I are retired and traveling the US in our RV. Currently we are near Rapid City, SD and headed toward the East Coast. I practiced law for 40 years. Retirement was a result of health issues relating to service with the First Cavalry in Vietnam. We enjoy traveling and plan to continue touring for the next number of years.

1968

Lesley Andrews

Thankfully, no major events to report, only the pleasures of retirement. My wife and I celebrated our 25th anniversary with our daughter in Granada last June. It was a driving trip from home near Basel, Switzerland that included Estella (on el Camino de Santiago), Cáceres, Seville, and Cuenca. Currently visiting the Bay Area and Colorado to renew friendships and see my mother. More commonly, we go for day hikes in the various Swiss mountains, garden, and work with the local Unitarian Univeralist fellowship.

1972

Kate Goldsborough

I am a makeover artist with a business called Kate Goldsborough Lifestyling. I teach classes and work with clients privately and in groups online. I also style for photoshoots and speak on lifestyling, which is a combination of style and health inside and out. I also own a boutique and a salon in the White Mountains of New Hampshire!

1973

Wende (Ely) White

Sadly, my mom passed away on May 6 2016. Years ago she did her research and found CRMS for me. Ralph Beck’s mother and my mother were roommates at Miss Hall’s School. She found out that Ralph was going to CRMS, so she encouraged me to apply, for which I am very grateful. I went to a great school, I have a special friend in Ralph, and I had a thoughtful and wonderful mother.

1976

Douglas Carman

Still a pediatrician working in the Los Angles area at Kaiser Permanente. Have 2 kids 19 yo daughter and 16 yo son. Son loves to ski. So, I go with him when I can. Wife is a Deputy District Attorney in Los Angles county.

1977

Daniel Martinez

We are still here in Washington where I continue to work at the US Department of State. We are weighing our options including a possible overseas assignment but for now perhaps returning to the practice of law is also on the table. Had brunch with Dave Boersch when he was here on business recently and look forward to meeting up with Jane Laug when they visit Maine.

1978

Peter McWhinney

Its getting hot in NYC. Still with NYC Parks Dept. Stay cool!

1985

Melody Chamberlain (Parker)

After having worked in the mobility modification industry for the last 13 years, I am now in the process of starting my own business, opening a mobility dealership in Northern British Columbia. Hobbies include riding (no surprise), vaulting, wilderness camping, kayaking, and volunteering with our local Search and Rescue group.

1989

Katharine Bill

I am loving being a mom of two daughters - Sisu (6) and Neva (2). I’m also working as a part-time teacher in our elementary school, and appreciating CRMS’s approach to education more every day!

1990

Teri Meeks (Villiere)

Currently living in Tucson, AZ. Running four businesses Including A BMX track! Adelle Haas came out to see some fast action racing in April!

1993

Justin Dragonas

My wife Candice and I just celebrated the birth of our first child, Scarlett Marlowe Dragonas, in December. The design work I have been doing in the film business is going strong. I have a TV series airing around June. I see a lot of Alumni - Shoni Duke, Max Wheeler, Chase Carter, Carter Carter are the usual suspects. I hope to bring my family to Carbondale shortly for a visit and hopefully Scarlett will attend in about 14 years!!!

1994

Lorenzo Worster

The Worster family is doing great. Aurora is almost 3 and chases after her big brother Sage with determination. Sage is always outside biking, skiing and playing in nature. Julia and I are both teaching Middle School and will be moving back up to Truckee this summer.

1996

Kayla Manzanares (Shelton)

I am a mom of two beautiful girls and a nurse at hospice. I love living by the coast near Santa Cruz, CA and in the redwoods.

1999

Hayes Parzybok

Enjoying life in the Sierra Nevada (Lake Tahoe) with my wife Katie, daughter Piper and another one on the way. Currently working as a Real Estate developer as the VP of Development and Director of Sustainability. My time at CRMS is never far from my thoughts and it helps guide me in almost every endeavor.

2001

Johanna (Hanna) Krueger-Borchard (Krueger)

I have 3 children, Evelyn, Tristan and Xander. I got married in August 2006 to Kevin Borchard. I received my undergraduate degree in international affairs in 2004 from CU Boulder and graduated from St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas in 2009 with my JD. I have been working as the Assistant Moffat County Attorney representing the Department of Social Services.

2002

Amish Patel

Looking back at my time at CRMS, it was a very positive experience for me overall. Unique experiences, college prep, academics, working with your hands on the land, the professors/life coaches, scenery, heated debates and challenging views of a dynamic student body in the name of broadening the mind and further learning, sports, and then all the trips and activities which you may not do in most other programs nationwide. It helped me pick up new skills, and learn from a variety of perspectives, which most people just don’t get to do. I see how CRMS is a special school in a special place with a special learning curriculum. All in all, very few people get to enjoy these offerings in the format that only CRMS can create, and I am grateful for the time spent there. After CRMS, I spent 6 years in North Carolina, departing with an MBA and more life experiences. I lived in New York/New Jersey for 1 more year before returning to Atlanta when the global crash occurred. I decided to return back to the capital of Zambia, Lusaka in central Africa to help run the family operations. Work has kept me grounded for sometime with some fun trips in between to diff parts of the world. Its been quite normal and structured with a focus on new goals in your personal life and also career as part of life’s evolving chapters. Now I am recently engaged.

2003

Michael McCarney

We have been doing some nice projects including designing a pair of shoes Akomplice x Asics, called the Colorado, with a ski map printed on the sole (which shouted out many CRMS colleagues as the name of ski runs), was a great project. We also collaborated on a custom RIDE snowboard kit RIDE x Akomplice, Vernon Davis, and most recently made art officially for Bernie Sanders, used by his Colorado and NYC campaign, as well as in his official art show in NYC. We are now sold in 33 countries and offer an entire men’s line.

2004

Jessica Meister

I am living in Los Angeles, CA and working as a Wardrobe Stylist. My styling work is published nationally as well as internationally in Paris.

Do you have News to share?

Did you know you can update your information and share news on our website?
www.crms.org/alumni/staying-in-touch/update-your-information/

ALUMNI

FRIDAY NIGHT OF FAIR CONTINUES TO CONNECT

On July 29, 2016, the CRMS Friday Night of Fair event brought together young alumni and current faculty and staff at The Beat in Carbondale, owned by CRMS Alumni Tobyn Britt '03 and Lucy Perutz '09. 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. Thank you to all who attended this year. We hope to see you there next year as this tradition continues!



Top left: Gretchen Grebe '05, Max Ramge '11, Hannah Horn '11 and JJ Worley '11; Top right: Kenzie Small '13 and Will Sardinsky '12; Bottom left: Heather Froelicker '77 and Susie Alexander '77; Bottom right: Tobyn Britt '03 and Lucy Perutz '09

IN MEMORIAM

TIMOTHY M. WORMSER

Timothy Wormser had a special place in his heart for CRMS, and though he was only here for a short time in 2007, felt that his experience here was an important and positive influence in his life.

Timothy Milwe Wormser of Westport died July 13 in Laguna Beach, Calif. He was 27.

A graduate of Staples High School, he went on to the University of Colorado Boulder where he was a communications major and was on the CU snowboard team.

A lifelong lover of nature, he enjoyed hiking and horticulture.

He spent his formative years near the beach where he sailed and kayaked. He was a gifted athlete who excelled at snowboarding, wakeboarding and biking. Those who knew and loved him can attest to his openness, warmth and passion. He could light up a room with his smile, intellectual curiosity and interest in current events.

Affable and effervescent, he loved a robust discussion and could talk to people of all ages. He made friends everywhere he went. He was a sensitive and intuitive young man who cared about the environment, the world and its people. He was a contributor and business manager for About Boulder, an online paper that followed the events in Boulder.

He had a sophisticated palate and a keen interest in good food. He worked in and loved the restaurant business where he had many colleagues and friends. He had dreams of opening a place of his own.

He will be sadly missed by his many friends and family who survive him, his parents Peter Wormser and Liz Milwe, his brother James Wormser and wife Kate, and his brother Jon Wormser.

Donations in his memory can be sent to Colorado Rocky Mountain School

EVA DENALI WILL '12

Eva Denali Will was born in Woodland, California, and lived in Davis, California with her parents and sister until May of 1999. The family lived in Village Homes, an innovative community with solar homes in a context of community agriculture.

In the summer of 1999, the family resettled in Carbondale. Eva attended the Waldorf School on the Roaring Fork through eighth grade, and then attended the Colorado Rocky Mountain School for three years and was on the honor roll each year. She spent her last year of High School at Glenwood High where she graduated with honors. More recently, Eva attended both Chapman University in Orange, California, as well as Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Eva had many gifts and talents. As a young child, she was passionate about her small animals, and kept her beloved “Katie,” “Ratty,” and “Gracie” near her. She authored her first “book” while in grade school, and continued to excel at creative writing throughout. She had lately been sharing her writing under a nom de plume of Maple Mathers at <http://hellopoetry.com/Maples>. She was in several theater productions as an early teen. Later she found a love of sewing, designing her own line of clothes she marketed under the name Hide-N-sheek, “a company run by one Owner, Designer, Creator, and Model.” See facebook.com/hideNsheek. She was working on a Psychology degree. Eva’s passion could be quite fierce, but was also absolutely beautiful in a profoundly wild way. Eva had a special way of seeing the world that manifested itself in her writing and artwork. Sadly for her friends

and family, she was not able to complete the journey from child to woman. Eva was daunted by forces in the world and in her mind that stirred fury and dismay of dreadful proportions. In some senses we all share this painful journey; our inner child must face incorrigible issues that strike deeply at our innocence. For Eva, the transition to adulthood proved impossible. She will be greatly missed by many, in both Colorado and California.

Eva is survived by her mother, Gretchen Hofmann, her father Dale Will, her sister Whitney Ingrid Will, her younger brother Forrest Hayden Rosenbloom-Will and by her loving grandparents Jack and Molly Hofmann of Belvedere, California, and Darel and Harriet Will of Denver, Colorado.

The family suggests donations be made in Eva’s name to either the Aspen Hope Center or the Waldorf School’s Annual Fund.

PATRICK LOUIS “PAT” MENKE

Pat Menke’s connection to CRMS extends back to the 1970s when he learned to kayak on the CRMS pond and nearby rivers with Roger Paris. He taught his children to kayak on that same pond. When he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and eventually confined to a wheelchair, he spent a good part of every day on the CRMS campus. For all of those students, faculty, and staff at CRMS in those years, no explanation is needed to describe Pat’s spirit, sense of adventure, relentless optimism, sense of humor, and love of learning and good conversation. He was awarded an honorary diploma and blessed us with his presence until the last year of his life. His spirit and inspiration lingers in us all and under every shady tree and Crystal River overlook on campus.

Surrounded by friends and family, longtime Carbondale area resident Pat Menke passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, May 23, 2016 following a 40-year battle with Multiple Sclerosis. He was 68.

Born October 10, 1947 in Wray, Colorado, his family moved to Greeley, Colorado

when Pat was a child.

A natural athlete, his passion was the sport of wrestling. He competed on the Greeley High wrestling team. After high school, he competed collegiately for the hall of fame NCAA wrestling team at Colorado State College (now the University of Northern Colorado). Following his graduation from UNC in 1969, he taught classes and coached wrestlers at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind in Colorado Springs. Now married and with a baby on the way, he heard that underground miners in Colorado made a lot of money and he moved to Leadville in the early 1970s to work as a hard rock miner in the Climax molybdenum mines.

The family moved to the Roaring Fork Valley in 1972 where he took a job as a miner for what was then called the Mid-Continent Coal & Coke Company at the Coal Basin Mines above Redstone where he worked until 1982. It was during that time that he and his wife, Kathleen, had two sons and built their log home in Satank, near Carbondale.

In 1975, Pat was diagnosed with MS and spent the next 40 years stubbornly battling that pernicious affliction.

He was a particularly good story teller and talented whittler. He like pretty women, dogs and dirty jokes, of which he knew many. He loved his family and the Crystal River Valley.

And he was very brave.

He is survived by his sons Luke and Jake Menke; his daughter-in-law Rachel Menke; and grandchildren Kaleesi, Skyler and Murphy. He is also survived by brothers and sisters Mike Menke, Bill Menke, Carolyn Layne and Barb Vergarra; and his ex-wife Kathleen Menke.

He was preceded in death by his parents Louis E. and Joan Menke and his sister Jan Senac.

At the time of printing we learned that our beloved Alumnus and Board of Trustee member Ted Hepp, Class of 1961, passed away on September 2, 2016. There will be an In Memoriam honoring his life in the Winter Newsletter.



Colorado Rocky Mountain School
500 Holden Way, Carbondale, CO 81623

PARENTS OF ALUMNI:

If this is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please email amineo@crms.org with his/her new address.

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2016 REUNION

Our reunion weekend was a wonderful intimate group of alumni ranging from the class of 1957 to the class of 2001. It was amazing to pull out pictures from the various years and hear of memories and stories that have made CRMS such an important part of people's lives. On Saturday evening, Head of School Jeff Leahy opened up his home to host a lovely and lively cocktail party, where we were joined by several local Alumni and their families. Thank you so much to all who were able to join is - it is such a treat to be part of this amazing community and learn its history through former faculty, students and family.