

# CRMS

A young woman with long, wavy brown hair is shown from the chest up, playing an acoustic guitar and singing into a microphone. She is wearing a dark grey t-shirt. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a stage or rehearsal space. The lighting is warm, highlighting her face and the guitar.

Colorado Rocky Mountain School Newsletter

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*Luci Belakova '17  
performs an original song  
at Senior Recital*

## LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

*Jeff Leahy*

Colorado Rocky Mountain School's history with modern technology is relatively brief, and is in large part due to the passions and interests of two individuals – Katherine Ross, who began our first computer programming course, and Eric Krimmer, our current Director of Technology. In addition to these two tremendous faculty members, we also relied on small groups of students who were interested in technology and used the school's nascent program as an opportunity to learn and develop their own programs. Much has changed over the last two decades in the way of technology at CRMS, but the most notable is its prevalence in

the lives of our teenagers, for better and for worse.

When I was growing up, it was considered cutting-edge if parents set limits and controls on the family television; fast-forward to today, and teenagers are immersed in a culture of technology. There is simply no way around the prevalence of access; I was just at a conference during which I was struck by two statistics: a speaker cited that Clayton Christensen, a Harvard Business School professor and author, believes that in the near future 50% of classes in school will be taken on-line, and another speaker shared confidently his belief that in three years virtual reality will be a mainstream concept. To say that technology is moving fast and is embedding itself into education is an understatement.

During my first years at CRMS, our attempts to use technology to enhance our program often resulted in snafus that became a source of humor within the community; we couldn't seem to get through a meeting in the Barn without technological difficulties. This was so common that it became expected; it wasn't a true meeting if we didn't have something go wrong with the audio or visual aspects of the program. All of our early challenges with technology masked the fact that some very dedicated individuals have worked tirelessly to establish an infrastructure that we all benefit from today. Despite a perception during that time that we were not a "technology school," we benefited from the help of students who had a strong ability in this area and who have gone on to very successful careers in technology. These students helped create early versions of the website and student information systems that were in use until a very short time ago. Similar to so many programs at CRMS, our technology program was for the most part homegrown and supported by both classes and work crews.

In recent years we have expanded our fiber-optic network throughout the campus from the original three buildings to 17 and have established a reliable and stable wireless network. With this substantial progress, we decided it was time to engage an outside technology consultant with a wide-ranging knowledge of independent schools. With his guidance, we established a clearer internal structure in which the director of technology is now a member of the administrative team, and a committee of faculty members is available to provide strategic oversight of new initiatives and to support student learning. As a result of our extensive evaluation, we have recently established a new learning-management system for our faculty and students. We have also adopted a system where prospective students can apply on-line and enrolled families can complete all their forms ("paperwork") on-line, rather than continuing the cumbersome and inefficient paper-mailing process that is currently in use. In part, the work we have done ensures that there are agreed-upon expectations and an alignment within the adult community regarding the use of technology. We wanted to establish a path in line with the school's history and culture to address the real technological opportunities that are available to a relatively remote boarding school.

Perhaps now is a good time to reassure you that relationships remain the primary vehicle through which all growth and learning occur at CRMS. We remain a school that cares very deeply about engaging students on a personal level and believe that this is best done in a culture that values

multiple interactions between the student and the faculty members. It is important to our sense of community that we remain connected to people and not solely through our devices. Our current student body may have access to a campus-wide wireless network, but access is managed thoughtfully, is monitored at all times, and the extent of a student's access is controlled. We also believe that with the pervasiveness of these devices and social media, we have begun to value – perhaps in a way that is different from the school's early years – the time we spend in the outdoors, because it provides us a release from the tether of technology. That said, it would be a mistake to say that technology is not a part of our outdoor program; for example, our satellite phones ensure a capacity for groups to communicate while out in the field.

None of us charged with the education of our students take lightly the capacity of technology to influence education, often not in beneficial ways; for example, multiple-choice tests were developed to assess a lower order of thinking, and now they have become prevalent and influential in assessing students at schools across the nation. The trap that we all are faced with is that we become very good at what we measure, yet the value of what CRMS has to offer is not easily assessed in multiple-choice format. The impact CRMS has on its students has much to do with its culture, sense of community, and the strong relationships between students and faculty. It is our goal to allow technology to support these areas and that it not just be used for efficient assessments. Colorado Rocky Mountain School has always

had an organic garden, a ranch, and an extensive art program through which our students learn about responsibility and the value of hard work. These programs teach us about our inner selves and the world that surrounds us. In short, these programs capture the mission of the school, and it is why they are so important to us.

My first job in education pre-dated the ubiquity of copy machines, so that all our work was done on sheets of blue ditto paper. Prior to coming to CRMS, I perceived having a cell phone to be a luxury for Amanda Leahy to possess in case of an emergency while traveling across the country. Eric Krimmer, our current Director of Technology, recalls that when he started he had an array of telephone modems in the Barn that provided "dial-in access" for the Holden House administration building. This is all a far cry from where we are now and what our students have access to daily. It is our task as educators to make sure that we are teaching them how to responsibly use and navigate these devices, social media, and information to their benefit, a challenge that became particularly real during the latest election season when "fake news" emerged as a common phrase. The skills CRMS teaches (critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, assessing-analyzing-synthesizing information, and communicating effectively) remain incredibly important tools for our students to possess as they navigate a lifetime that will certainly be impacted by rapid changes in technology.

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# FUSING THE PAST AND FUTURE AT TICK RIDGE MEADOWS

*Bob Ward, Freelance Writer*



CRMS campus circa 1970s

On the west wall of Joe White’s office is a stark, black-and-white panorama of the Carbondale area, taken around 1910 from the top of Red Hill. The sweeping photograph includes what is now the Colorado Rocky Mountain School property, and one of the first things that strikes the viewer are the vast open spaces that are now chock-a-block with homes and commercial buildings. Highway 133 didn’t exist at the time of the photo, nor did all of its storefronts, parking lots, power lines, gas stations and tributary roads.

“It’s fun to see what’s changed since this picture was taken, but what I really appreciate is what’s still the same,” says the CRMS finance director with a smile. “When we put land that was historically in agriculture back into agriculture, then we’re returning to our roots and our culture and our history.”

CRMS, along with many properties surrounding Carbondale, was originally a working ranch, and that rough-hewn heritage still characterizes the campus. But only about two of the school’s 300-plus acres are devoted currently to food production. The Tick Ridge Meadows Sustainable Agriculture Project will soon change that.

Using a historic water right to irrigate eight acres just across the Crystal River from the main campus, school officials are preparing both a major expansion of the Garden Program and a further extension of the CRMS curriculum into the outdoors.

“This school really has the potential to be a showcase, to be the leading model for farm-to-school agriculture and curriculum,” said Heather McDermott, director of the Garden Program. “It’s exciting to think of the different

ways we can interface with the academic parts of the school. We’re just slowly teasing them out.”

While school administrators ponder the academic opportunities presented by the agricultural expansion — think everything from soil chemistry to the geopolitics of sustainable farming — McDermott is contemplating what to grow on the site. Between the existing orchard, fields and greenhouse, the Garden Program already grows a stunning variety of root vegetables, leafy greens, squash, tomatoes, beans, peppers, culinary herbs and fruit.

One idea getting a fair amount of traction is the notion of growing pumpkins on a portion of Tick Ridge Meadows, and selling them to the public in October. It’s not a certainty yet, but a pre-Halloween fundraiser could be a plus for the school’s bottom line and would deepen community ties.

“Pumpkins are big and orange,” McDermott laughed. “Who doesn’t love pumpkins?”

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Recently, the school partnered with National Resource Conservation Service and Soil Conservation District to install a pipe and deliver water to Tick Ridge Meadows, which was farmed before the school’s founding and became an athletic field for a time.

Later this year, an electric pump and irrigation system will be added to spread water across the fields. McDermott expects to plant a cover crop this year to hold the soil in place. That crop will be plowed under in the fall to nourish and prepare the soil for the first real food crop in spring/summer 2018. By that time, a 75-horsepower tractor will be on-site to help manage all that new farmland, and a drip-irrigation system will ensure the most efficient use of water.

Pumpkins aside, the bulk of the produce coming from Tick Ridge Meadows will go, as do the fruits and vegetables from today’s Garden Program, to the kitchen at the Bar Fork cafeteria, which feeds CRMS students and staff.

“Our current garden footprint can only supply the kitchen with so much produce,” McDermott explained.

“The maximum amount was about 12,000 pounds in one summer, mostly consisting of potatoes and heavier things.”

In addition to boosting agricultural yields from the campus, the additional eight acres of farmland will enable McDermott to let some acreage lie fallow each growing season, to rotate a cover crop through all of the fields and thus regenerate the soil.

To date, the Garden Program has produced roughly 20 percent of the produce consumed at the school. That percentage will rise with the addition of Tick Ridge Meadows, but nobody knows exactly how much yet.

“We’ll be able to increase our production, but we’ll also be able to treat the soil better,” McDermott said. “Give it a rest, put in a cover crop, then till in that cover crop the following year ... With the current garden footprint, we haven’t had enough space to let some of the ground lie fallow.”

All of this agricultural activity, including the composting of food waste, will require student work crews, of course, and McDermott looks forward to engaging greater numbers of kids in the demanding, rewarding and fun work of sustainable food production. The popularity and trendiness of local, organic food production is an added bonus.

“Our kids are going to learn this really important skill of how to grow food — that real-life, practical knowledge of growing their own food — but on the other end they’re going to eat in the Bar Fork, seeing and then eating all of that fresh produce,” McDermott said. So it’ll be gratifying, for them and for me.”

Tick Ridge is already home to a small network of running and cycling trails, which shouldn’t be affected by the agricultural operation.

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CRMS Board President Chelsea Brundige likes multiple aspects of the Tick Ridge Meadows plan, and sees the project as another expression of the school’s commitment to responsible land stewardship and conservation.

“We have this magnificent piece of property right in



The current CRMS garden  
Photo by Renee Ramge

the heart of Carbondale,” she said. “(CRMS board members) see it as central to the CRMS mission to protect that resource and find ways to use it to support experimentation in our program and the education of our kids.”

Examples of the school’s conservation-oriented mission are many. Directly adjacent to Tick Ridge Meadows, on the north side of Garfield County Road 108, are 18 acres of open space that CRMS placed under a conservation easement. The Aspen Valley Land Trust holds the easement on that parcel. (Perhaps the most noticeable demonstration of the school’s environmental commitment is the solar array just north of the Jossman building. That joint venture with the Aspen Skiing Co. supplies about 200,000 kilowatt-hours of clean power to both the school and the town.

“Tick Ridge is a continuation of CRMS putting its physical assets to work in ways that protect the land and contribute to our educational program,” Brundige said.

Through a major capital campaign that concluded in 2016 with the completion of the Alpenglöw Base Camp building, CRMS has done a considerable amount of construction in recent years. But even that flurry of development was performed with a careful eye toward renewing old structures, preserving green spaces and maintaining views across and within the campus. That’s important to school officials and to Carbondale residents.

“We have avoided the temptation to condominiumize this property,” said Finance Director White. “We certainly have (sold) parcels in the past and may do so in the future, but there’s always been a sense that the greater community has an interest in the openness of our space. I feel like the land has been conserved by virtue of the school’s ownership.”

Board President Brundige says the board always thinks long and hard about the use of CRMS land, which is one of the school’s most valuable assets: “The board has a longstanding interest and passion for funding and supporting the school in making sure we use the campus and the outdoors as a classroom like any other classroom.

“Tick Ridge grew out of both a longstanding commitment and a serendipitous opportunity to use our land and water resources to expand our outdoor programming.”

Perhaps the aspect of Tick Ridge Meadows that excites people the most is the way it fuses traditional uses of the school’s land with an optimistic, sustainable view of the future. By expanding the Garden Program across the river and bringing new life to a mostly dormant piece of the campus, the school is both honoring its heritage and pointing the way toward a greener 21st century.

It’s also preserving open land in a rapidly developing part of the American West, while educating the next generation of business and civic leaders. Not a bad combination.

“Local food production and sustainability — these are things that have always been part of this school and this piece of land,” added White. “It’s fun that those ideas have become cool again. And we have the ability to continue that tradition, especially during a time when it’s in vogue, to some degree.”

## TELEMARK RECAP

Kayo Ogilby



The 2017 Telemark season is bookended by emotional extremes — joy and challenge. Joy for the exceptional Colorado powder we experienced this year, and challenge in navigating an injury sustained by one of our beloved athletes.

The snow conditions, especially in January, were the material of dreams. We experienced more consecutive powder days than any season I have seen in my time at CRMS. Many athletes on the team, who were new to Telemark, received a simultaneous crash course in powder and Telemark throughout the entire month of January. It wasn’t until early February that we had the opportunity to go back to some of the basics and let our standard learning progression, in more typical conditions, unfold.

One of the first highlights on this Powder Tour De Force was our first competition in Telluride. We decided to stay two nights in Telluride, and the plan was to compete Saturday and freeski Sunday with other Telemark teams. The folks at IFSA (International Free Skiing Association) managed to pull the competition off Saturday as visibility dwindled and snow accumulated on the venue all day. The team skied strong and did an impressive job navigating low-visibility conditions. The next day, as I rolled out of bed and looked at the Colorado snow report map, I had to do a triple-take at the number next to Telluride: 18 inches... the deepest report, by at least a foot, of anywhere in the state. The day that unfolded was one for the books.

Our next competition (after three more weeks of powder in Aspen) landed us at our lovely throwback local mountain, Sunlight. The conditions here swung

the other way and provided a great tool of learning how to navigate a big-mountain course in sun-baked, icy, and crunchy conditions. In a way, these conditions were a blessing as they added significant challenge to an otherwise un-technical venue. It was wonderful to see the steps and progress that every member of the team took in their second competition.

As has become the ritual, Grand Targhee served as our grand finale of the season, and it was with great excitement that we made our pilgrimage up north to reunite with old friends and Telemarkers from all across North America. This year almost every junior team stayed together in the most unique ski lodge of them all: The Teton Teepee. We had a wonderful time with the teams from Vail Mountain School, Telluride, Crested Butte, and Steamboat. We decided to take Friday, the day the adults competed in preliminaries, and bounce over and ski Jackson Hole. This proved to be another punctuated highlight of the season as we began our day with Corbett’s Couloir and then moved on to hike to and explore other elements of the mountain, like Casper Bowl.

I suppose it is in the hard moments, and the dark moments, where a team and an organization and individuals are truly defined. It was in the events that unfolded in the finals at Targhee where I was truly presented with the kind of people I am so fortunate to be surrounded by at Colorado Rocky Mountain School. The top of that list is student Soren Lindholm ’18 who navigated, and continues to navigate, a traumatic and life-changing injury with a degree of courage and spirit that I cannot begin to find the words to describe. His parents, who were at the competition, have redefined for me what parenting, love, and support look like. Nate White, a CRMS faculty member, has been a beacon and mentor for us all in an immeasurable and incalculable way. The team, and the maturity they demonstrated so far beyond their years, has continually illuminated the path forward. The leaders at the school, Jeff, Diane, Jen, Ashley, have reconfirmed why I work here. And last, but certainly not least, the broader community — students, faculty, parents, other teams — have all provided such stunning warmth, care, and love. It is with the warmest regards and deepest gratitude that we say thank you and that we dedicate every warm and special moment we have felt this season to Soren.



## NORDIC RECAP

*Rachel Bachman*

The grand finale! The Oysters headed to Steamboat Springs to compete in the CHSAA State Championships. A stroke of luck brought a blanket of new snow, refreshing winter and allowing us to temporarily forget the 60-degree days of the last few weeks. It was a wonderful getaway to celebrate the end of the season: cozy town home, good food, great racing.

The first event of the championship was a 5K individual start skate at the Steamboat Touring Center. The boys opened the event with strong performances; Levi Gavette '18 led the Oysters in 27th, Sawyer Shook '20 in 31st, Will Swenson '18 in 37th and Ian Catto '18 in 45th.

On the women's side, Kate Oldham '20 had an outstanding performance with a second-place finish. She reported her skis were outstanding on the climbs and she felt so strong that the big climb was almost effortless. It has been an outstanding freshman season for Kate and we are psyched to help her continue to chase her dreams at CRMS. The second finisher for the women was Kaitlyn Young '20 in 36th, an outstanding accomplishment for her first season Nordic skiing.

Day two led the Oysters to Howelson Hill for a 5K mass start classic race. Cold temperatures and more new snow made for significantly easier classic waxing conditions than our last race; no Klisters necessary! The course is notoriously tough with several stiff climbs followed by a screaming descent into the rodeo grounds for a double-pole sprint

to the finish. Skiers easily clocked spreads over 30mph, which is particularly exciting given they are on skinny skis without metal edges!

In the women's race, Kate Oldham's season performances earned her a front-row position in the mass start, allowing her a smooth entry to the lead pack going up the first climb. She held her position and skied an incredible race, finishing in fourth place. Kate's top five finishes earned her All State recognition for both techniques.

For the men, Levi Gavette raced his strongest race of the season, finishing in 19th place. Moving up in the pack required a tactical approach and true focus and determination. Close behind Levi, Ian Catto also had an outstanding performance, one of his strongest of the year, earning a 36th place finish. Sawyer Shook followed closely thereafter in 40th, and Will Swenson finished.

CRMS has the pleasure of training and competing with the local Roaring Fork School District ski team. As the district does not offer Nordic skiing, their athletes also compete as CRMS athletes. Because of this partnership and the performances of their athletes, the Oysters were able to take the overall league win for both classic and skate on the women's side, and a third-place title for skate on the men's side. This is a huge victory for CRMS, and we look forward

to continuing our mutual success.

It has been a truly wonderful and wildly successful season. We hope for a snowy winter and envision an equally impressive 2017-2018 season. Onward and upward!

## ALPINE RECAP

*Meghan Detering*

The CRMS Alpine Team had another strong winter, which concluded in late February with most of the team participating in the State Championship ski races in Steamboat Springs, CO. Our season began in early November with dryland training four days per week, and then the pace picked up during the winter season with the addition of racing and on-snow gate training two days per week. During the regular season, the team competed in giant slalom races at Aspen Highlands and Beaver Creek and a slalom at Ski Cooper. Our athletes included: Ella Beck '19, Alejandra Butcher-Salazar '20, Maeve Cassetty '19, Gordo Davies '19, Will Fontana '17, Sara Jensen '19, and Tessa Munro '20. This was a diverse crew, ranging from seasoned veterans who compete on the weekends with AVSC's club team, all the way down to several brave students who had never before skied in a race course! Success and growth, therefore, were measured on a varying scale for each individual. Tess and Gordo landed numerous top-20

finishes, while Alejandra was a consistent finisher in the top 30 after jumping back into a sport she had not done since her childhood. Maeve's proudest moment came in a slalom race where she tackled a tough slope that provided challenges the year before. Sara and Ella showed mental toughness by diving enthusiastically into a new sport; on multiple occasions they both put together two runs on icy courses and secured race finishes. Finally, though there was not always consistency with strong race results, Will poured his heart and soul into his skiing and dryland training, tallying up the most training runs in courses showing leadership through his grit and determination.

The season concluded on Feb 23-24, when five members of the team

traveled to Steamboat Springs for the State Championship races. The giant slalom race was held on Thursday at Mt. Warner, followed by the slalom on Friday at the local Howelsen Hill. CRMS had some ups and downs throughout the weekend, with several strong performances and also some tough races and unfortunate luck at times. In the women's giant slalom race, Tess and Alejandra placed 25th and 30th, respectively, in a field of 86 racers. Sara skied to 71st place and put together two very proud runs in tougher competition than she had faced all season in her first year of ski racing. In the men's giant slalom race, Gordo placed 21st of 78 men, while Will was denied his first run after some confusion following a lift closure and some terrible luck that led him to miss



his original start time; he was, however, given a second run and was thus able to at least compete in one run of the race. On Friday in the women's slalom, Tess (18th) and Sara (62nd) skied strong races in the field of 85 women. Alejandra unfortunately hooked a tip early in the first run and was disqualified from the competition. Gordo placed 31st of 88 men in the slalom, while Will had a tough race, having to hike after missing gates, but surely earned the award of the day for showing the most heart and being determined to reach the finish line in the last high school race of his senior year. All of the athletes should be proud of their accomplishments this season, and we were especially proud of them for having the courage to tackle the steep and icy slalom courses on Howelsen Hill, which were much more challenging than anything that they had trained or raced on all season long. With our ups and downs, the team had a great time at the event, and one of the major highlights was eating dinner with the Nordic Team at the house of Gaylan Hellyer, a current CRMS parent who lives in Steamboat. A huge thanks to her for hosting us and for providing a place for us to gather as a whole team during the busy event! Finally, thanks to all of our athletes and to AVSC coach Dave Hjerleid for a great season!



## STATE TITLES DEFENDED: CRMS climbs to the top again!

*Dave Meyer*

Nearly 300 high school climbers descended on Grand Junction from around the state on Saturday. The occasion was the 8th annual Colorado High School Climbing League State Championships. Athletes from more than 30 schools met in the final competition of a five month season. The setting was the colorful arching walls and boulders of Grand Valley Climbing, a state-of-the-art facility less than two years old. With 35 brand-new boulder problems and 30 new roped routes up to 55 feet tall, the climbers had plenty of challenge.

In a strong local showing the Oysters of CRMS rose to that challenge. Arriving as newly crowned Regional Champions, they climbed very well against a host of strong teams from the Western Slope and Front Range. Carrying the torch for CRMS was Carbondale's own Colin Daniels '17 taking 2nd overall in boys' varsity. His leadership helped the boys win another state championship. He was supported by Marshall Graybill '17 in 7th, Will Newton '17 in 12th, Fynn Blake '18 in 14th, Spijk Selby '18 in 17th, Toby Meyer '19 in 24th, and Whitton Feer '18 in 29th. The girls matched the boys' triumph with a spirited win of their own. Anja Simpson '20 took 3rd overall in her first year on the team. She was followed by senior Callie Rominger in 5th, Lauren Murphy '18 in 8th, Sarah Teague '20 in 10th, Nicole Pierson '20 in 18th, and Jessie Bright '18 in 21st. This marks the second straight state title for the CRMS girls and the sixth straight state championship for the boys. Despite increasing competition from growing teams across Colorado the Oysters pulled together to put another win in the books.



# A WORD FROM A SENIOR - KATIE BIRZON

*It has become CRMS tradition that every year, each member of the senior class gives a short speech at a Formal Dinner or All-School Meeting that highlights how CRMS has impacted them. Below is a speech given by Katie Birzon, class of 2017.*



Bobby Rosati, Sophia Jacober, Kayo Olgilby, Amelie Ogilby and Katie Birzon.

My youngest memory as a freshman is of Riley Ames giving his senior speech at the first formal dinner of the year. I remember thinking about how nervous I was going to be for my speech but I decided not to think about it because senior year was so far away. I also remember what Riley said. He said that at CRMS you will become your true self. I was shy freshman year, and I didn’t know it then, but he was right. During my four years here I have been able to find my voice. And so now, not only am I nervous, but I am also grateful for the opportunity to speak in front of you today. So here, is my long-anticipated, senior speech.

I was a careful, cautious child who always did what I was told. But when I saw my brother jump into ponds that I originally thought had monsters and go off of jumps that I thought were too high to attempt on skis he changed my mindset from “How could I ever do this?” to “How could I possibly not?” It wasn’t until I jumped off the edge of a boat into the freezing water of the San Francisco Bay that I realized how much his ability to alter my mindset would affect me in my life.

My brother is a passionate swimmer who swam from Alcatraz to the San Francisco Bay seven times. I first knew that I wanted to do the swim after I saw my brother accomplish it for the first time. He was given a maroon sweatshirt that read “Escape your limitations.” I’d wanted one ever since. I expressed this many times over the six years that I tried and failed to swim Alcatraz. I joined swim teams, quit swim teams, jumped into cold water, scrambled out of the cold water. The problem always being that I didn’t actually like swimming, I only liked the sweatshirt, and maybe I was a little scared too. My brother, however, would taunt me by saying that in order to wear such a cool sweatshirt, you need to do the swim. Every year for six years I watched my brother escape from Alcatraz and swim under the Golden Gate Bridge.

He was an experienced swimmer and I was an experienced spectator. So on the seventh year I was more determined than ever and I thought I knew what I was getting myself into. Still, I wasn’t sure if I could do this. But I told everyone, so I couldn’t back out.

I was convinced the pool lost a couple of inches of water from the time I entered to the time I left. I wasn’t a great swimmer by any means, but, armed only with a pair of goggles, I gave every practice my best. Regarding strokes, my knowledge went as far as what I’d seen on the TV. Sometimes my brother would come and help me. “Don’t forget to kick with your feet,” he’d say, or even on the more difficult days, “Get out of the pool and do ten situps.” It was the middle of winter at this point, but being the little sister I never argued. Regardless of the kind, any help was greatly appreciated.

Three months before the swim, my brother left for Navy boot camp. “Next time we see each other, I will have swum Alcatraz,” I said smiling at the thought. My brother gave me some last advice, “When they say jump, jump. Start swimming immediately or else the next swimmer will land on top of you.” I could feel small butterflies in my stomach as he continued, “At first it will be hard to breathe but keep your face in the water so it adjusts to the cold and just keep swimming; your wetsuit will warm up soon.” Lastly he said, “There are no sharks in the bay, but if you do see one,” he smiled a little, “punch it in the face.” With that, he left me with three more months of training.

When you really want something there are two things to do while working for it. Be inspired, and be inspiring. I am easily influenced by inspirational moments. To me, inspiration comes from all aspects of life, but in its most basic form, it is a dream that one struggles to accomplish until the very moment that they accomplish it. I considered it part of my training to watch Soul Surfer and other inspirational movies as I got closer to

the date of the swim. Equally, I tried my best to encourage others to do the swim with me. However, most people did not want to follow me into icy, debatably sharky water in a couple months. But I was so grateful to have my geology teacher Kayo, his nine-year-old daughter Amelie, his niece Phia, and my snowboarding teacher Bobby enthusiastically agree to follow me on my quest.

A few days before the weekend of the swim I practiced swimming laps with Amelie and Phia. I felt prepared until Amelie, the nine-year-old, lapped me twice, and she was doing butterfly, her favorite stroke. I would have been more concerned but their passion for the sport made me, for the first time, actually enjoy swimming laps. I was excited for the rapidly approaching weekend.

The first thing I thought when I opened my eyes on the morning of the swim: “What did I get myself into?” I remembered my brother saying “Don’t chicken out on the boat ride to Alcatraz,” and I was afraid because he felt the need to say that. There could have been a thousand butterflies in my stomach. I wasn’t sure if I could do it.

On the boat ride to Alcatraz I sat next to a man wearing a red swim cap. Unlike the yellow swim cap that the majority of swimmers wore, the red swim cap signified a swim angel, meaning that if I needed help while I was in the water, he would be the one to rescue me. I watched as the swim angel struggled to put on a pair of bright blue flippers. When he finished, he looked up and asked me if this was the first time I was doing the swim. “Yes,” I said nervously. I don’t remember what he said, but after talking with this man I felt brave and unbelievably inspired. I think it was because this man only had one arm.

This man, while he prepared to swim from Alcatraz to the San Francisco Bay, was escaping his limitations.

There I was on a boat and someone two heads ahead of me had just jumped into the freezing water of the San Francisco Bay. I remembered another piece of advice my brother had given me. “You’re going to be standing on the boat and a man is going to tell you to jump. Everything you’ve done in the past nine months, everything you have proved to yourself, has been leading up to this one moment. You’re going to want to take it in and think, this is it, but in reality you need to jump.” So I jumped without time to think about fear.

My brother prepared me for everything I could have expected. So why was I caught off guard as I jumped in the water? Submerged, the icy cold water took away my breath but with it, it took my butterflies. I started swimming, feeling both inspired and inspiring. I had never expected to love it. It was the best feeling. Again my mindset changed from, “How could I ever do this?” to “How could I possibly not?”

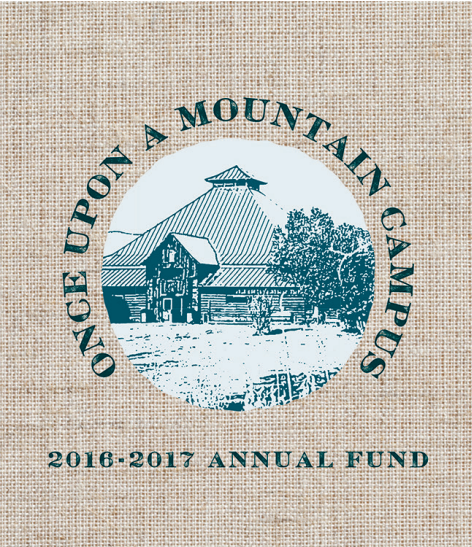
It was a blue sky that day. The waves were at ease. Nothing like some of the brutal swims that I had seen my brother accomplish. For a moment I felt like maybe I didn’t accomplish as much because my day could have been one of the easiest swims in history. But what was I thinking? As I swam in the San Francisco Bay, to my right Kayo’s daughter was pretending to be a dolphin, and to my left Bobby hadn’t left my side since we jumped in. I had accomplished my goal. I would finally earn my sweatshirt. I woke up early and stayed up late so that I could do this swim. The blue sky was the perfect end to my adventure. However, my adventure doesn’t have to end.

It was widely accepted for years that no man could break the four-minute mile. Until one day one man did, and within a month, fifteen people broke the four-minute mile. I found that when I returned to campus, people who had told me that they were too afraid of open water, that they weren’t swimmers, and people I had never met before, were approaching me to tell me that they wanted to do the swim next year. It just shows that your mindset, that I was lucky enough to learn at a young age, of how could I possibly not do this can help you. To be honest, that had to be one of my proudest, most inspirational moments.

The most common question is, “Was it hard?” It always reminds me of my favorite quote by Chelsea Dinsmore, “If you expect life to be easy, it will be hard. And if you expect life to be hard, it will be hard. But if you can just accept instead of expect from life, then you open yourself up to experience fully and find beauty in whatever is in store for you.” These words and others spoken by Chelsea Dinsmore and her husband Scott Dinsmore, have taught me that I can accomplish anything, and I should. Through this experience I have gained so much. All I wanted was a sweatshirt.

Is there something you’ve always wanted to do but have not?

Failure will never stop you from achieving your goals. Only the fear of failure can do that. I wanted to swim Alcatraz six years in a row, but because I thought I couldn’t do it, it wasn’t for me, I never voiced that dream. In reality, I never failed to swim Alcatraz, it only took me six years to prepare for it and the seventh year to fully realize that dream. Find out what it is that you want to do and do it. Swimming Alcatraz is not the only way to escape your limitations.



2016-17 ANNUAL FUND  
*Once Upon a Mountain Campus*

This year’s 2016-2017 Annual Fund campaign, Once Upon a Mountain Campus, focuses on tales of inspiration from the myriad of individuals touched by CRMS in the past six decades. The Annual Fund consists of all gifts given to the school for its vital and robust program, and supports such as areas as student enrichment, faculty professional development, and financial aid to be used within the current fiscal year. Our combined Annual Fund and Special Events goal for this year is \$675,000.

We are delighted to report we are 80% of the way to our goal in cash and pledged commitments, thanks to the generosity of many, but we still need to receive \$135,000 prior to June 30, 2017, the end of our fiscal year. By joining us with your support, you are providing the

best possible independent school education for our students and helping us underwrite the actual cost of a CRMS education. Please consider supporting this important fund with a gift of any size. To make a gift today or to learn more about supporting this important fund, please contact Beth Smith (970-963-2562 or bsmith@crms.org), Director of Annual Giving.

CAPITAL PROJECT: HEALTH & WELLNESS FACILITES

As a former working ranch, CRMS remains committed to investing in the campus infrastructure ensuring it is in alignment with the extraordinary and unique quality of academic, active and residential programming that takes place here daily. We are currently working on new Health & Wellness facilities and additional faculty housing.

The primary goal of the new Health & Wellness facilities is to support our students’ emotional, social, and physical well-being in modernized, high functioning, and thoughtfully designed spaces. Our team of dedicated wellness professionals currently provides these services in cramped, outdated spaces never designed for these purposes. In addition, CRMS has an ongoing commitment to sustainability, and we always look to renovate and re-purpose existing space when available. These proposed new facilities will be centrally located and in the school’s primary gathering area.

Some important features of these facilities include a modern Health Office housing a separate nurse’s office, two exam rooms, an infirmary, and a dedicated and secure medicine closet. The Counseling Office will be a dedicated space with a convenient (yet private) location for students, and enough space for groups to gather. Lastly, the Strength & Conditioning Center will support all our multi-sport outdoor endeavors and will allow for indoor training, yoga, weight lifting, and machine work while utilizing plenty of natural daylight and open space.

The proposed projected cost for the Health & Wellness facilities is \$1,500,000 (dependent upon the final designs and locations). To date, CRMS has raised \$625,000 in cash and pledges towards these important facilities. To learn more or to support these improvements please, contact Lisa Raleigh (lraleigh@crms.org or 970-963-2562 x 130), Director of Advancement.

LEADERSHIP-LEVEL ANNUAL FUND GIFTS

Each year we ask donors who have the financial capacity to consider joining us at a leadership level of giving. The success of the Annual Fund is founded on the principle of many donors contributing to the cause, and we are incredibly grateful for those donors who are able to serve as a leader of this cause with a gift of \$5,000 and above. The following donors have already committed a leadership-level gift to this year’s Annual Fund, and we want to thank them for their generosity. Please consider joining these donors and help lead the way with your support.

Eric & Deborah Alden  
Alpine Bank  
William Anschuetz ’74 & Sarah Kemme,  
Richard and Mary Kemme Foundation  
Charles F. Babbs  
Ralph Beck ’73, Beck Foundation  
Ruth Carver  
Tom & Amy Castillo  
Tony Cherin ’58  
Sherri Draper & Will Ferry  
Mary Whitford Graves ’60  
Frederic C. Hamilton, Jr. ’73,  
The Frederic C. Hamilton Family Foundation  
Stephen & Betsy Hough, The Schroeder Foundation  
Daniel Hsu & Sandra Kan  
Larry & Caroline Huntington  
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Ilsa Perse ’66  
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Cynthia Yates Price ’72 & Lester Price  
Dorothy Reed ’68, Thendara Foundation  
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Timothy Sampsel & Ann McAlpin,  
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Tim & Jane Sullivan  
Samuel Tripp ’97, The Grace Jones Richardson Trust  
Lynde B. Uihlein ’63  
Yidong Wang & Xin Rong  
Gurdon & Stan ’80 Wattles, The Howard Bayne Fund  
William Knox Holt Foundation  
Anonymous (3)

DID YOU KNOW?

**Scholarship Work Day (SWD)** was started by CRMS students 53 years ago and Jim Gaw participated in the very first one! Plus, all the proceeds raised during SWD support the Scholarship Fund, and in just one day SWD raises over \$20,000. Some fun stats include:

- The CRMS maintenance department loads 14 “fat boys” (school buses), 42 garden rakes, 18 shovels, 60 garbage bags, 22 buckets, 18 trowels, and 17 hand rakes.
- 30+ work crews, 125 students, 28 faculty & staff, and countless parent volunteers help on SWD.
- 16 lbs of potato chips are consumed each SWD and stuffed into little brown lunch bags.
- Students use more than a gallon of sunscreen during SWD.
- Crews collect enough trash and debris to fill up Jeff Leahy’s office.
- And finally, after a day of work, CRMS students consume more than 200 ice cream sandwiches.

To support this year’s SWD, please contact Elizabeth Reynolds (970-963-2562 x 136 or ereynolds@crms.org), Special Events Manager.



MEET SUZI McKINLEY ‘96  
CRMS TRUSTEE

Interview with Beth Smith



Suzi is a Project Manager at Palantir Technologies, and served 10 years as a United States Marine Corps Officer, to include three combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan. Notably, she led the team of Marines featured in Newsweek Magazine’s 150 Fearless Women photo journal recognizing her team’s contribution to breaking down gender barriers. Suzi is also a former NCAA Division 1 athlete and professional soccer player. She holds a B.A. in English Literature from California Polytechnic State University.

**What inspired you to join the CRMS Board of Trustees?** CRMS played an incredibly strong role in my life, not only during the years I attended, but long afterwards, and when the opportunity arose to give back to the community which instilled irrevocable values in me, I was honored and jumped at the opportunity.

**What do you value most about CRMS?** I value that CRMS affords our students the opportunity to actively and intellectually engage with a community that both supports and challenges; it gives our students responsibilities in which teamwork must be utilized, while emphasizing the importance of creativity and self-reliance in the face of adversity – oftentimes learned from failures. CRMS teaches appreciation for beauty and freedom – oftentimes learned from events unexpected. CRMS teaches never to settle for “good enough” – to set goals commensurate with a dream or vision. Most importantly, I think, the CRMS community teaches (by example) the value of respect – respect for our teachers, elders, peers, mother nature, history, and tradition.

**What are you most excited about as you embark on your new role as Trustee?** I’m simply excited to perpetuate the CRMS mission and discover what unique ways I can contribute.

2016 - 2017  
CRMS BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES

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VIRGINIA TOUHEY ’74

RAVI VENKATESWARAN ’69,  
Vice President

MEETING DATES

May 19 - 20, 2017

1956  
John Borden

I drove out from Vermont with my aunt and uncle, Anne and John Holden, in the International truck in the spring of ’53 to help prep the ranch for the first school year that fall. I decided to stick around and attend the school for the next 3 years. Fast forward; I’ve just co-founded an educational non-profit to help get students outside to help cure nature deficit disorder. We call it Spiral Play [www.spiralplay.org](http://www.spiralplay.org). The experience at CRMS helped inspire the spirit of the new endeavor. Thank you school.

1957  
Bill Dumont

Depending on health I hope to make it out for the reunion in 2017. I am still ranching with help from my wife Susan and stepson and family. The grandkids love working the calves at branding time. Shelby gets right in castrating, vaccinating and branding, she is 15. Taylor, 12, works the pen and gets the calves down the shutz. Ben and Kelly do a lot of the heavy work along with Susan and me at branding time. The rest of the time Susan and I do the checking of fences and waters. We love it! Ben and Kelly have jobs in Prescott. Stepson Matt just retired from the Army with 20 years service. He is now doing ROTC in Pueblo, CO.

1959  
Susie Dean (Jay)

I have Mount Sopris in my mind’s eye as I write from Las Vegas, Nevada! My husband and I moved here from New Mexico in early 2000 with the idea of returning to New Mexico in three years. We are still here and now visit New Mexico several times a year. Hal is a retired architect and sketches and paints the wonderful Red Rock Canyon area near us. I am still selling houses and will retire eventually. Our three children and five grandchildren are in Seattle where we visit often.

The life lessons I learned from John and Ann Holden are still with me and I have passed many on to my children. I am so pleased CRMS continues to provide

young people with a good education, adventure and fun.

1963  
David Owens

After 40 years of practicing law, I have entered semi-retirement compliments of agent orange related cancer. Gloria and I are traveling the United States in our RV and maintain our vacation home in Arizona. Life is good exploring our beautiful country. I look back with fondness on my experience at CRMS. The lessons learned at CRMS continue to enrich, rereading Siddhartha, remembering Othello with Wells Kerr, distilling hard cider, Ken and Adele Hause, French and Flatworld, madrigals, Spring Trip, and the list goes on.

1964  
Ellen Anderson (Clark)

Moved to Folsom, CA - 6 miles from my younger son and his family. I enjoy doing art projects once in awhile with family. Continuing in pursuit of deeper spiritual understanding. writing, and fixing up my home. Life is good.

1966  
Wick Moses

What a year of whiplash! Mine began with my domestic situation deteriorating rapidly - Annie and I had decided to split. She and the piano rolled out in July and I began a massive house attack of cleaning and painting.

The reality of having my kitty kingdom (I kept my 3 sons and she took the girls) began to sink delightfully in. Freedom is not just another word!

The morning after the election, I threw my crystal ball in the trash. Carbondale is still a bit of a magical kingdom. I hope all of you will remember how beyond lucky we were to go to CRMS when we did and may you have people and things in your lives that will sustain you and give you happiness.

Oh, and I have a really nice guest room now where Bart and Lucy and their well trained dog, Liam broke in. Hint Hint! Anyone interested in talking music, cats and motorcycles is welcome to contact me. See you in August.

Mike Kitchens

I have written, or almost written a novel. It is really, really excellent. I told a story. It is about me and my brilliance - also, in it I defeat the forces of evil in the form of Steve Bannon. He tries to fight me in a cape and his underwear with a light saber. I am armed with logic and fire. In the end I am the ruler of the known universe planning even bigger things. The End.

Bart Chapin

Sitting down in haste to write this before we head to Boston this afternoon, and then on to London to visit our daughter. She is an NP here but has been relegated to teaching other nurses there. She is working on a prescribing license that will allow her to have similar duties there to an NP here.

Our sculptor son and family live in Vermont where they have two near perfect, but rowdy children. We visit them as often as we can but it is never enough. We are doing our best to corrupt the grandchildren with time on our sailboat, something we were not able to do with our own children.

The infrastructure here is under continual revision. There are definitely crumbly bits, but the stick-it-to-Trump bits are doing well. We just purchased a plug in Prius, which in combination with our thirty solar panels and heat pump mean that we are driving, heating, cooling and lighting by sun power.

Sorry to miss all of you in August. Time in the sun here is limited and therefore gets filled up during the darker days of winter. Have a great reunion. We will be thinking of you.

Priscilla Wagener

A request for photos of grandchildren, what granny can resist that?

Theo, 3 1/2, loves “reading” to Ellery, 1, who finds her big brother most entertaining. Keeping up with them requires 1 or 2 trips yearly to New Zealand, such a hardship.

Travel was the big agenda this past year. In the states, a road trip with the NZ family; abroad, England, NZ and Antarctica. Jeff and I ticked our 7th continent in December. This jaded traveler was awestruck! The highlight was a 40-minute Tête-à-tête with a young

Minke whale who swam among out kayaks and Zodiacs with great finesse and curiosity.

Still at home outside Boulder trying to make our patch of semi desert as lush as my Iowa homeland, in a tan, brown, taupe and russet sort of desiccated way.



Priscilla Wagener’s grandchildren Theo and Ellery.

Tamim Ansary

Last year was busy. I wrote a novel I have yet to sell, sold a history (of the world) I have yet to write, and published a book I’ve been working on for years—Road Trips, Becoming an American in the vapor trail of The Sixties, about the counterculture years, a.k.a the Nixon era. Stayed healthy but nonetheless, peskily enough, got even older—older than I’ve ever been in my life, which doesn’t mesh well with busier than I’ve ever been. Debby and I are still living in San Francisco, she’s still organizing conferences promoting employee ownership, and we still have no grandkids. So it goes. Our cat Raoul acts like a big baby but is actually middle-aged in cat years. On election night, I was in Brooklyn, where both my daughters live. Elina’s doing a scene-painting apprenticeship at Julliard, Jessy’s story-producing for a show called Mysteries at the Museum, and they’re the light of my life.

Wendy Stagg (Blake)

And while it has been a full year - including a wonderful afternoon spent with Emily Pollock and other alumni at Ojo Feliz - I don’t know if I have any real “news.” Some travel. Iceland, the Outer Hebrides, Shetland, and of course New Zealand. We too have offspring there, a daughter who after eight years even went so far as to marry her Kiwi partner. A fine wedding on a sheep station with lots and lots of family, followed by the immediate families, moms declining, doing the Milford trek. I was laid quite low with shingles in my right eye at the end of May, and am just now off the meds, and assume it will all eventually disappear, with little damage to my vision. Health is a big issue I am sure for all of us, so what will go away is what I prefer to deal with. Chris continues to work full time, being very excited that Taos Ski Valley, Inc. is now a B corporation, while I try to figure out where I fit in the bigger picture. It feels very good to have both kids settled, although at the moment my daughter is hanging out in Japan waiting for the docs to release her husband to go home, having broken his fibula skiing.

Jenny Anderson (LeCompt)

Hmm. It has been a quieter year than the last few. No big photo trips; these are planned for this fall (Yukon ... will make a road trip of it), and next year (Tanzania, France, and Italy). Did travel to visit Grace Anderson in Jackson several times, including one trip with grandsons Colin and Luke, who think 98 year old Grace is terrific. Saw Warren Anderson on some of these trips. Went to Salt Lake City to visit my daughter Missy and her fiancé Melynda. Missy will graduate from medical school in May, the day before she and Mel get married in Park City. Visited Louisa at her new house in Clackamas, Oregon and she visited me once in the fall, when she came to help me close the cabin in the Tarryalls. Other than the various trips across the west, I keep trying to improve my photograpy skills. I’m better with the camera than with the software to edit the photos. Both are essential, so I keep working at it. I don’t know if I will be able to come to the reunion yet. It may conflict with one of those trips.

Ilsa Perse

In Oregon we always have the weather and way more rain than usual. Our domicile is at the very end of a remodeling project. Only two more weeks to go, and we can move all the furniture back to where it came from in November. Now I have a gorgeous studio and really nice guest quarters. Visitors are always welcome.

Now entering year nine of fighting Waste Management, Inc. We’ve had them tied up in court preventing them from expanding their dump for almost a decade now. Their options are dwindling, and it appears there might be a rare victory for regular people over the largest garbage company in the world. I know way more about the evils of landfills and garbage than is healthy. But the long and the short of it is, that people buy too much stuff and make way too much garbage.

The gallery that I have been involved with for 11 years is going well. It’s even more time-consuming than fighting Waste Management, Inc., but a lot more relaxing.

Would love to come to the reunion but am committed to a workshop in Washington at the same time. Drats

Susan Meiselas

As much as I would love to jump on a plane in August and see everyone, life is too crazy for me to commit now...I’m sure it will be a blast...I just have too much pending to be able to plan that month now...it’s usually when I collapse and don’t move at all!

1967

Our entire class is saddened by the loss of Steve (Stevenson) Atherton who died in December of last year. Steve left us with many memories and will be sorely missed. We send our best to Steve’s family. See his obituary on page 26.

Dan Dole

I won’t bore you about my grandchildren as I never even had their parents...

Still here in Berkeley at “Domaine Dole”, still working in the forge and managing the property here, looking after my younger ‘special needs’ sibling twins Jim and Jenny who live in the Santa Cruz area. My older brother Stuart is less

able to help with the twins since his wife Anne came down with Parkinson’s a few years back. Still cycling a lot, jogging a bit, going to the gym, doing yoga and everything. I can to keep it going, to honor the greatest gift that is our life. Even skied one day this year: fabulous conditions on the mountain, horrendous traffic, maybe the new normal.

I’m currently planning to go bicycle touring in the Pyrenees and French Catalonia the last half of August into September. If I attend the reunion too I’ll be gone about a month and I fear this may be too long to be away.

Stan Gibbs

The big news from Mary’s (Janss ‘66) and my perspective is that we have moved from Aspen back to Eugene, Oregon. Closeness to kids, length of winter and the quality of the community were important considerations in choosing where to move to.

Aspen has too much winter for us now, and a vanishing community; it has become an investment instead of a place to live. One of our children lives in Eugene and it’s a one-day drive to our daughter’s house in Oakland, CA. Unfortunately, it is now a two-day drive to Boulder, where two of the kids live. Tradeoffs... The community here is much as we remember it, very friendly and full of everything you would expect in a town that prides itself on the saying “old hippies never die, they just move to Eugene”.

We will be at reunion, though due to our dog-child who must travel with us, we will be staying at a local VRBO rental.

Celia McVicker (Metcalf)

I was one of the few to attend reunions the last 2 years. I was hoping to meet up with others from the 60’s (including those from 65-66). 2015 Victor Zurcher and I were the only ones from the 60’s, last year Stan Gibbs & Mary Janss drove down from Aspen. So, I can’t wait to see more folks this year. I use the reunion as an excuse for a road trip through western Colorado. Never sure what direction I’ll go from Carbondale, but it really does not matter.

I returned to Denver 2 years ago after 30 years in California: 15 years in the Monterey/Carmel area and then 15 years

in Silicon Valley. I retired, mostly due to health issues and moved to Denver to be closer to family. Nice to be close to the mountains I love, but I can’t really hike and can no longer ski so I spend time dreaming about what once was.

Patty Duke (Foreman)

Once again, the reunion falls at a time when I can not attend. 50 years is a milestone for all of us. Carbondale then had an Army & Navy store and no gas station.

Each year as I pass by to Aspen on business...and to ski...I am amazed at the changes all around, but Mount Sopris remains the same beautiful vision that I had from my dorm bedroom picture window. It was a straight view down the path. That first day I arrived is etched in my brain forever, as well as the whole 2 years I was there. We were all blessed.

This year at the end of April, Peter and I will meet some Canadian friends in Moab. It will be their first time there. I look forward to seeing the joy in their eyes as we hike the many scenic spots.

Our son, Ben, is a videographer, and the Canyonlands is one of his favorite places, to shoot, and to bike. We have 2 grandkids, Ryder (11), and Canin, (8) who are special beyond belief. Luckily it is a short trip to Boulder to see them. Our son, Ryan, runs a ski tuning shop, Edgeworks, here in Steamboat so we get to see him all the time.

Peter and I continue to work 24/7 in our company, POINT6. People love the socks, the company is growing, so it is exciting.

One day we will retire and say what a ride!

Kat Bradley-Bennett

I have recently transitioned out of the adult ed program I helped start and I am now teaching a class at Front Range Community College in how to teach ESL to adult students. All of my students want to go overseas to teach; they’re a fun bunch of young and eager minds! It is taking nearly every waking hour to get this course planned out for the semester, so I don’t feel as if I’ve backed off working in the slightest!

I am trying to do less and less work and more time with my nature photography

with Peter Hartlove. I’ll be two weeks in Florida in March to photograph burrowing owls and shorebirds. In July, I’m headed to Alaska with Peter for bears, orcas, sea otters, puffins, and whatever else we can scare up!

I’m a little up in the air regarding the reunion, largely because of all the travelling I’m doing beforehand. Besides the two photo trips with Peter, I have three other trips between now and August. I promise to try.

Harry Van Camp

So, I wouldn’t have dreamed 50 years ago that I would now be watching Dave Nutt and his daughter restoring a beautiful wooden boat on Facebook, wanting to see Christopher Thompson’s new sculpture in downtown Chicago or learning that Sarah Forbes is in a bag pipe band! We still care and we are still in touch. That is amazing! Most of that is because of the wonderful job Emily does keeping us connected and up to date. Thank you Emily! As a result, I have sailed with Bart Chapin off the coast of Maine, hiked with Ivar in Norway and watched the moonrise in New Mexico with Rowdy Yates! I have even crept out at 2:00 am with Emily to photograph the stars! Honest, that is what we did!

I’m sad we have lost Steve Atherton, I love the time we share with one another and I can’t wait to see as many of you as possible at the reunion.

As for me, I finished one jury trial in January and have another approaching in April. I am blessed to be practicing with my wife and my son, Eli. We are suffering through the remodeling of our bathrooms, enjoying children and 3 and a half grandchildren. I cried through the wedding of my daughter but enjoyed every minute of it!

Bretta Rambo

Can it really be 50 years since we graduated? I remember taking off after graduation in my parent’s Volvo accompanied by Peter, Kitchens and Jaime Cowan as we made our way westward through Jackson Hole and other scenic areas. John Holden had told Peter he wasn’t welcome at graduation due to his shoulder length hair. My father, an atheist, asked John if he would ban Jesus Christ from campus, too. Peter attended

the ceremony.

In October, Walt and I took a glorious three-week road trip through the southwest and were lucky to meet up with some CRMS people along the way. We are active in Indivisible and just joined 1500 of our fellow citizens at a Town Hall meeting about the ACA. I guess the only silver lining is that this is making us all better citizens.

I hope everyone will come to the reunion. It will be so good to catch up!



Bretta Rambo and Walt Maack

**Michael Davis**

Standing below Dry Falls, Washington. Enjoying the ancient flood plain of the Ice Age floods that swept across eastern and central Washington. Been retired for seven years and finally settling to being rather than doing. The sky is a warm awareness that embraces every elaboration. Can you hear the gentle song of brilliant light that emerges from our hearts?



Michael Davis

**Dave Westerbeke**

Grandpa Dave Westerbeke here, my daughter Julia had a baby boy named Beckett. Wonders never cease.

**Chris Tomson**

This news request comes as I prepare to embark on a couple CRMS inspired adventures. Moments ago the truck arrived with huge bars of 3” solid square steel for my “Aspire #3” 17’ tall, 1500 lb. forged sculpture.

In 2009 on the last night of teaching CRMS Blacksmithing Interim, I welded together my power hammer demonstration pieces into 5 small sculptures which I called the CRMS maquettes. Over the years I’ve been scaling them up to monumental size. In early May Susan and I will drive this one to downtown Chicago where it will be on display for a year replacing “Aspire #2” (also from the CRMS series). On May 18th I launch from Lee’s Ferry on a 14-day solo kayak trip down the Grand Canyon. After 12 years of entering every launch date lottery I finally won. I’ll paddle the Roger Paris River Boat that I built at CRMS summer of ‘66. Two weeks alone, speaking to no one, eating only what fits in my boat, recording flute improvisations with the echoes, birds and frogs, absorbing the breath-taking wonder of the canyon. It has been my lifelong quest to invite that wonder into my art and music. This will be my 6th such solo flute/kayak trip.

**Sarah Forbes**

I’m still loving my bagpiping. This year our band will be competing in the World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland on the 12th of August, so that’s where I’ll be for the reunion! My husband continues to be amazingly supportive, though he won’t come with us. He still loves his petrified wood and rocks and I don’t go on his rock trips! My past year has been lots of time on bagpiping, family history and family papers, plus downsizing for an eventual move to a smaller place. Cheers to all. Will miss you.

**Dave Douglas**

We are well in Santa Fe and often see the daughters and their families in Boston. I’m still involved with international drinking water projects. Deborah and I circled back late last year to landscapes that CRMS introduced me to, including Bluff (and St. Christopher’s Mission) and Cedar Mesa, the day after Obama protected Cedar Mesa canyons and environs as the new Bears

Ears National Monument. I’ll be spending increasing time this year working with others against the unprecedented attack on the environment by Trump and his minions. Hard to imagine any character occupying the White House whose values are so antithetical to CRMS’s.

We’ll be back on the East Coast when the Reunion takes place, but I hope all goes well.

**Bernie Brown**

I’m greatly saddened to hear about Steve. We were the best of friends for my 2 wonderful CRMS years. Time after graduation drifted us apart, but the memories will last forever.

I guess it’s my duty to check in with my many long lost CRMS friends every 50 years or so. My bride of 8+ years, Berlyn, and I gave up the rat race (and snow) of Crested Butte, where I hung my hat for 21 years, and purchased our “Pondero-sita” in Hereford Arizona. Now being a dedicated cowman, Hereford worked. I guess if it had been Suffolk, Arizona, I’d a had to stay in the Butte. We love it here, and do have a nice guest room for anyone daring enough to come visit. Life’s pretty tough here as I sip my toddy by the pool. OK. Enough yada yada. Four grown daughters. 2 teachers, one Veterinarian, and one surgical Neuromotor. One almost teenage daughter, and little brother not far behind.

Still pimping a little dirt, but mostly renovating our huge new spread of 3 1/2 acres!!!

Not missing Crested Butte’s 283 inches of snow just yet. I’ve traded in my cowboy boots for Bermuda shorts. (Most of the time). Bet that scares you! Oh yea... 7 grandkids and counting.

**Steve Barru**

Greetings from Vietnam where I am now into my second year of (half) retirement; I moved to Da Nang in January of 2016. Though I fortunately never had to visit this city (or Vietnam) in the 1960s, there were a lot of memories associated with the name Da Nang, none of them especially happy. But these faded soon after I arrived and it is today’s city of about 1 million people that I have gotten to know. Da Nang is on the sea, what Vietnamese call the East Sea - it is definitely not the



This photo was taken by Steve Barru. He lives in Vietnam.

South China Sea in these parts - and the beach is magnificent. The countryside surrounding the city is also exquisitely beautiful. In fact Da Nang and Hoi An 20km to the south are one of Vietnam’s major tourist destinations. Right, it is also very friendly and cheap.

I would love to make it to the reunion, but I doubt that is going to happen. The timing of the event is not right in terms of when I need to get exit-reentry stamps in my passport related to my visa, and then there are work considerations (a couple of weeks of work for the Sept issue of a journal) and, of course, the cost of a trip. The decision has not been carved in stone, but it is not looking good.

In any case, I am working to wean myself completely from the United States. Resist. Indivisible. Yeah, okay. But honestly, I remain discouraged and depressed and, increasingly, I find the most effective way to deal with such malaise is to tune out. If we are not connected on Facebook, feel free to find me there.

**Peter Mullen**

I’d come but- first wedding among 3 sons in September - Have wanted to bring my German wife for years but seems to get foiled always. One of these years.

I do enjoy hearing the banter of you guys - a lot. Looks like not this year.

I teach social security classes and so am following the wisdom of bumping up 8% additional per year til age 70. Am just 68. But life is good and can’t wait to hike Colorado and will drop in sometime.

**Sharon Sprague**

I started writing, then got distracted by a beetle crawling over a log, then I got thinking about all the exciting things my classmates are up to, and I looked

back at that beetle. Then I thought “I better get on this or Emole will shame me probably in capital letters this year. “ We went to Copper Canyon and it was beautiful. Emily and I (and sometimes Bob) ate hamburgers (Tucson is big on hamburgers). The beetle got bored. Xsss

**Sarah Cooper-Ellis**

I’m happy to read all your messages here, and those of you who post on Facebook. Emily and I play Scrabble long-distance. She hosted me in her beautiful house in Tucson a few times a few years ago. I keep dreaming of getting back to the southwest. Instead, my husband and I join my sister and her husband and our dogs in renting a house in Florida for increasing numbers of weeks in the winter where we watch birds being birds and don’t miss the ice and cold of Vermont.

In Vermont Abijah and I have lots of family around and feel lucky to have found each other late in our lives. I have two young grandchildren in Brooklyn. Visiting them there is challenging but I keep telling myself it is good for me to see what lives are like there.

**Brad Ansley**

Hope I’m making this under the wire. 2016 was one of the wackiest that I can remember what with Lord Commander Marmalade, the painful rift between Hillary and Bernie and the subsequent unimaginable results. And the hits just keep on coming.

So shocked about Steve Atherton, may he rest in peace.

Our son Kieran got married in Charleston, SC last January while he was in the middle of Navy submariner school. We’re on our way down on Thursday for his graduation and to bid farewell

as he and his one year bride head off to Bremerton, WA for his first deployment. We’ve made several trips to that beautiful city, once for his wedding and once right after the Emanuel AME Church massacre. As wonderful as Charleston is it has a very dark underbelly.

With the help of a new partner I finally finished (or nearly finished) the rehab on the 1974 Morgan 27’ sailboat I’ve been working on for 8 years on Jekyll Island, Georgia. We moved her two days before Hurricane Matthew hit the N. Florida/S. Georgia. coast.

We spent the week before Xmas at Pickett St. Park in N. Tennesse. It’s a wonderful locale on the Cumberland Escarpment and were built by the CCC in the 30s. Incredible little stone cottages for rent and over 30 miles of hiking trails. If you’re ever in the Nashville area I highly recommend it.

We have a new rescue pup Abby (named after Abby Sciuto of NCIS fame) and are settling nicely into our craftsman bungalow in Maryville. We are converting our Happy Valley house and farm into a VRBO/Airbnb in the near future and hope some of you dear friends will come and take in the wonders of the Tennessee side of the Smokies which are just a few hundred yards from the farm. In fact you can walk from the house to a trailhead less than 1/2 mile and hike to any place in the park.

Kathy and I are so looking forward to the reunion. She has family in Littleton who may move to Montrose, I have several friends in the Denver/Boulder area besides the usual CRMS suspects.

**Kathy Moritz**

I still work full time at my alternative health practice, while envying all of the rest of you that have retired! I recently had a wonderful trip to Australia and Tasmania, and a little bit of skiing in Aspen, but other than that, I spend my time working, taking intensive Ayurveda classes, and visiting my 2 grandkids whenever I can. Here’s hoping for more travel this year, and I look forward to catching up with everyone at the reunion this summer.

Tracy Fitz

Doing better, reconsidering life’s choices how and where to spend my moments.

K.C. Clendening

I am well and working on going to the reunion. I am still working FT and have a very small private practice on week-ends. I will take my social security next year and live on my salary for a year or so. I will probably always work until I can’t. I still work in a methadone clinic that now is a 15-minute walk and very convenient. And besides the numbers I really like it. I spend the summers either at the beach or a pool. Winters are cold but nothing like Michigan.

I do love the ocean and have always liked that I moved here. It’s like driving into the 1960’s living in this county. Anyway I hope to see you all in August.

Emily Pollock (Rosenberg)

This past year has provided me a new daughter-in-law, Jaqueleen, and a new son-in-law, Isaac. Noah and Jaqueleen married in the Dade County Court House (home of the hanging chad) in Miami Memorial Day weekend and are planning on doing it all over again in November here in Tucson. I guess they are hoping to end up with something a little more formal than a thermal paper receipt. Apparently, Jaqueleen wants a “real” wedding. Philip and Isaac, on the other hand, had a “real” wedding the first time. They rented out a Dude Ranch in Wickenburg, AZ and had 160 friends and family....many who had never been near a horse or west of the Mississippi. It was a pretty wonderful 4 days. Thank you SCOTUS! I seem to spend most of my day playing with fabric and making quilts for the boys’ friends who ARE having babies. My mother is still perking along at 95...kind of.....my 18 month old puppy keeps me perking along....kind of. I’m excited to see Harry and Susan next month. Sharon Sprague and I still get into as much trouble as possible during her visits.....We usually start with the gem show... I have become an activist in my old age. I march, I call, I write, I whine and even consider wine!

I thank you all for your notes. It truly is my favorite time of year to hear from such wonderful friends. I look forward to

seeing many of you in August and those of you who can’t make it.....be assured we will talk about you! (Only kindly...I promise!)

1969

Anni Shelley (Macy)

It’s been a busy year of golf and short trips. I’m about to wind up a year of being the women’s captain for our golf club which kept me busy and was a fun and great learning experience. Taken short trips to Phoenix, Palm Springs, Brandon OR, Coeur d’ Alene ID and lots of Seattle area outings. Fun!

Jeff Moran

I still live in Woodstock with Dion, and we are blessed with good health (at least, as I write). I’ve switched over to more handball than racquetball, and I no longer ski double blacks, but am happy to still be able to (if I needed to?).

I’ve been focused singularly on my history atlas project, which I can safely say is finally officially out of beta and online at historyatlas.com. I’m not sure why, more than twenty-five years ago, I decided the world needed a comprehensive, fully contextual, browser-friendly world history with extensive maps, but I’m happy with the result as far as it goes, which is currently the 1750’s.

Jeff Smith

I’m well, disappointed in the election results, but listening to more music and reading good books and magazines. I enjoy Facebook posts from Alex, Brad, you Mary, and many more. It is fun to stay in touch with the many constructive, positive friends from CRMS.

I am enjoying family, friends and old animals, all good things.

I am worried about war, intolerance, and instability in the world, and wish for peace.

Anni Macy Shelley

Only real news for me is that we’re going to Australia and New Zealand for the month of April. Spending time in Sydney, Tasmania, Melbourne, Auckland and touring the North Island of NZ before heading home. While in Auckland we will be playing golf in the World Master

Games (obviously I did NOT have to qualify other than having a handicap!). The WMG is basically an Olympics for over 35. I will be competing in the 64-75 year-old division... can’t believe I’m that old, but I am and healthy to boot! Really looking forward to the whole trip. Hoping to escape the daily barrage of Trump idiocy and the constant news of it!

Ravi Venkateswaran

Thanks for the heads up on our forthcoming 50th anniversary of our graduation from CRMS. Whew! Kind of hard to believe we have come that far. We should definitely start talking about it next year and early.

My wife and I are at our place in Chennai, India on our annual visit. We have enjoyed going around to visit temples, family and friends. The weather is slowly turning very warm and it is a different experience in India dealing with all of the in your face sounds, sights, and smells. We can find pretty much everything we need just outside our apartment from fresh flowers to groceries and the like. We will be heading back to Seattle in a few days and look forward to being home. Otherwise, been a good year. Have enjoyed my participation in the school’s activities through the board. I always welcome any insights from our fellow class members.

Bruce Ourieff

All is well with the Ourieff clan. I am still working, no retirement in sight for the time being. My lymphoma remains in remission, coming up on 4 years, so still early but... beats the alternative. Daughter Rachel is a pediatric surgical PA in Houston Texas. Just started. Not thrilled with Texas, but for a couple of years; great experience. Son Jared is about to complete second year of med school. Third year rotations will be in Tucson. Anyone know anyone in Tucson? He could use a meal or two, I am sure.

Despite my intentions to learn a lesson from my cancer and slow down; smell the roses and live life a bit... that doesn’t seem to have happened. Not sure where all those good desires went; but for now it is still hunker down and work for a bit. I am off night call; which is a huge relief after nearly 36 years. I have been following

the fantastic photos of Alex Morley on Facebook, little other CRMS contacts.

Lolly Lewis

After five successful years of their innovative COMMUNITY OF MUSIC MAKERS program, the SF Symphony decided not to continue the series and I was out of a job. That’s the bad news. The good news is: I have become so committed to amateur music-making that I started my own venture to support musicians in the SF area: the Amateur Music Network. I have a website that lists ensembles and resources around the area, and a monthly newsletter that alerts subscribers to upcoming opportunities to play and sing together. I’m also developing partnerships with local presenters to do collaboration events with their audiences. It’s small, but growing, and I’m loving it.

Still doing lots of audio recording (and doing more teaching for recording engineers), Still swimming in SF bay, in one of the coldest winters in years (fun!!)

Warren Anderson

I’m mostly going skiing this winter. We’ve had a big winter this year with avalanches, closed roads, power outages, etc. The skiing has been wonderful when you could actually go. Nick died on this date more or less. I inherited a cool pair of skis from him and I’ll probably go skiing on them tomorrow. I hope that wherever he is, he will haunt me and enjoy the mountains.

My daughter Natalie graduated cum laude from the University of Denver law school this spring. You could imagine how proud of her I am. She took the second day of the bar exam today. Hopefully she will pass on the first try. Today there is a bar exam that is recognized by something like 38 states, including Wyoming and Idaho. Nat is more employable if she takes this exam. She was going to go right into the bar prep course after the spring semester but her horse got colic and she spent several nights in the stable. Anyway she took the summer off and rode her horse, which after seven years of college, was ok with me. She met a good guy and they are living together in Denver.

AO Forbes

I am finally going to teach 1/2 year next

year which is both exciting and a little sad. CRMS has been a great place to have a career. I have two grand kids, 4 and 7 and another one coming in April and want to see them more unencumbered by soccer schedules and general CRMS too muchness. Went skiing with the 7 year old at Buttermilk and felt the wonderful symmetry that comes from so many generations of my family skiing on the same hill, starting in 1957... Life is great; we biked the Camino in September which was long and hard, but so profound. I would love to see what August might bring as I am in that maudlin kind of way... playing Jamie’s guitar and singing James Taylor, and looking forward to seeing lots of us.



AO kayaking last summer with his grandson Jack.

Linda Gore

Suddenly liberated from the weekly trek from Lafayette to Ft. Collins to look after Michael’s granddaughters; we’re spending the month in Oaxaca, where we’re taking a Spanish immersion course and exploring this amazing place. At times, I’m anxious to be home, getting on with the work of helping to clean up the big mess we’ve made of things back in the states. I’m both frightened for the future and lifted up by the strength of the resistance.

Paul Gibbs

I had a nice visit with Alex Morley at his place in Bend, OR in February along with Jim Welch who was passing thru on his way to his new place in Yachats, OR. Weather was bad on Mt. Bachelor but we had some nice Nordic at lower level and I got to spend a day at Smith Rock State Park watching Alex and his Lab perform

photographic magic. Jim was there too in his quest to get really excellent photos of 365 species of birds this year. I hadn’t seen Alex since CU days in the 70’s, so nice to catch up. Great host. Still a terrific skier-doctor.

I have been spending time with Jim Welch the past couple of years up at his cabin in Boulder County and trekking around northern Colorado a bit. X-country skied with Wade Wykert in Steamboat earlier in January. He plays tennis virtually every day of the year.... Looks good.

My son Stuart is getting married in Denver this summer. My daughter Alice gives me quite a bit of vicarious travel. My wife Barb is still doing horse things two days a week. I volunteer at local food bank and enjoy a lot of hiking, biking, golfing and skiing in the area. The food bank clientele is not dropping off. Can’t wait to see what the Repubs can do to really help the working poor. Nottttttttt. I haven’t been this freaked out about what’s going on in my hometown (DC) since the early 70’s.

Jim Welch retired from his solar power business at the end of 2016.. He is doing a lot of bird photography, and hosted a group of us at the aforementioned cabin near Ward, Colo in fall 2015.

Mary Kuntz-Cote

I moved to Oakland in August (rented my old bigger house in Berkeley to a visiting professor and family) to a small house I am gradually renovating and just now began the kitchen renovation-hard for a cook to have no kitchen for 2 months. I went to Claremont during the demolition days, for a week off school- that’s right, I went back to work part time after retiring in June almost 2 years ago. Actually have been working part time since last spring as an itinerant school librarian, though I took 2 weeks this fall to go to Japan, go to a small town festival in my old home base in the tea growing region, then down to Kyoto, to Kanazawa and then up to the Japanese Alps to go hiking. I love rural Japan. My kids are ok, older one doing well, and the younger getting the help she needs after a long scary time.

The Aug 11th-13th doesn’t seem to have any taker’s but AO. Our reunion will be in 2 years and now our friend Ravi is

on the board, I know he is planning to organize something special for all of us that year along with other classmates in Colorado. We should all try to make an effort to come that year!

1971  
Catherine Hayden (Wyler)

My grown kids both in Bay Area. A nurse practitioner and my son works in a mental health half-way house in San Francisco as a Spanish-speaking counselor.

1972  
Megan LeBoutillier

I have been a facilitator for The Center for Courage & Renewal for 20 years. I was one of the first, and today there are 300 of us all over the world. In 2014 I became a Kirkridge Courage Fellow along with 26 other facilitators from across the US and Canada. It has been an enriching and amazing experience which will sadly end in November of this year. The program has been such a powerful success that I agreed to facilitate a second Kirkridge Courage Fellowship that will begin in April, 2018. Check out The Center for Courage & Renewal and The Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center on google.

Mary Mills (Wilmer)  
Greetings CRMS family! While many friends are retiring, I'm working at Intuitive Surgical in HR. Very exciting and "cutting edge" technology. Cheers!

1973  
Rebecca Ivester (Furr)

My day, generally, is meditation, exercise, flute practice, volunteer work, studying buddhism, taking care of my indoor and balcony garden, sailing and surfing occasionally, and contributing to helpful causes. All this done with my dear husband. I love seeing my children and extended family whenever that works out - and friends! We have a spare bedroom for those who'd like to visit. I am becoming certified to teach Cognitively Based Compassion Training, a program developed at Emory University by the Emory-Tibet Partnership. I wish all of you well and hope to see old friends when it is possible.

1976  
Nellie Bracker

I haven't written in for a decade or two.... here you go.....  
Six years ago I decided to re-invent myself leaving behind my lifelong career in retail. When Gabby Giffords, my friend, was shot, I knew it was time to actuate part of her vision. I jumped into the energy efficiency arena selling Solar and LED lighting. I am certified by our Utility Company to navigate their Commercial Rebate program. I like to say this is the first time in my life I have "helped" people concomitantly making a living ! I have been a lifetime volunteer involved in every non-profit in our small community by founding an affiliate Community Foundation here in 1999.

Robby Bracker, our son (father is deceased Sean Kelly, CRMS '76) graduates in May from Chapman University, BA Film Production. He is a fine person, awesome actually !



Nellie Bracker with her son Robby

1983  
Nelson Jay

The American Alpine Club held its annual fundraising dinner in Seattle on February 25, 2017. Conrad Anker, class of 1981, was honoree and keynote speaker. Professional fundraising auctioneer Nelson Jay, class of 1983, was retained by the AAC to act as host for the fundraising portion of the event. It was a evening of awards, fiery speeches and a commitment by all in attendance to preserve the vertical landscape and access to public lands, similar to the values we learned at CRMS. As auctioneer and emcee, Nelson brought along the 1980-81 CRMS yearbook featuring Conrad's senior page where Conrad had quoted, "Feeling Groovy, Just Had My Cheerios!" Nelson

kicked off the auction by selling a Conrad autographed box of Cheerios for \$350, then went on to raise more than \$100,000 for the AAC. Conrad's keynote touched on his amazing career as a renown climber and environmental champion. Attendees included Washington State Senator Maria Cantwell, and climbing legends Jimmy Chin, Tom Hornbein, Fred Becky and many more.



Jimmy Chin, Conrad Anker '81 and Nelson Jay '83 at the 2017 American Alpine Club Annual Dinner.

1985  
Devon Daney (Daney)

Last year this time I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I'm happy to say I'm done with all the surgeries, chemo and getting back to normal now. I'm still in Durango, riding horses and raising my kids, Molly 11 and Finn 9. I've been lucky to see Becca Arndt, Alison Foster, Tiare Flora, Leigh Kendall, Hanna Clark and James Steindler this year - I love my CRMS family!

1994  
Richard Callender

As of August 2016 my family is moving to Northern WI to start a new chapter in life there! I miss CO and all the friends and memories from CRMS. Hopefully we can visit soon.

1999  
Kelli Keith

My husband and I were working on cruise ships in the entertainment department where we met, and left to work in the small ski town of Red River, NM. Our most recent move has been to Boulder where we intend to be for a while. We are loving the combo of mountain and

city and I'm thrilled to finally be back in Colorado! We continue to ski as much as possible, as well as hike, pack, and camp! I am working locally in accounting.

Jon Muir

Colt Muir arrived May 13, 2016

2001  
Abbey Paulson

I finished my PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology last year, and spent the fall 2016 semester teaching an evolutionary biology course at CU in Boulder. Now I'm working as a Second Century Research Fellow for Acadia National Park, doing fieldwork in Maine in the summers to study biodiversity patterns in freshwater, soils, and intertidal zones in the Park. My husband, Stower Beals, and I live in Niwot, CO, and are excited to welcome our first baby into the world in April.

2002  
Carl Cloyed

I'm now employed as a researcher at the Dell Ecology Lab, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center in Alton, IL and Washington Univ., St. Louis, Mo. I attended the Univ. of Arizona and graduated from Prescott College in 2008 with a degree in Enviro. Studies and Creative Writing, then graduated from Univ. of Louisville with PhD in Biology.

Yannik Nugent

I got married 2014 in the US, our daughter Vida was born in May 2016. I work as an HSE Manager in the Wind Offshore Industry. I'm planning on stopping by to visit CRMS in May 2017 for a day or two.

Lissa Pabst

I'm still running our cattle ranch in Hotchkiss. My daughters are now 10 & 7 years old. My son is 3 years old. I'm homeschooling them which allows us time on the ranch & ease of making it to doctors appointments for my middle kiddo (she has lots of medical challenges). We raise Angus/Longhorn crosses & Gyr. If you're in the Hotchkis area please stop by - we love visitors! We also sell our meat if you are looking for home grown, grass

fed beef. [www.bluespoonranch.com](http://www.bluespoonranch.com) Hope everyone is doing well!

Rob Steele

Life in Wyoming is going well. I continue to work for the University of Wyoming. Last summer we moved out of town to a place with some land and having been enjoying living in the country. My wife and I welcomed our first child, Stebner Jasper Steele, on November 18, 2016. Hope everyone in the CRMS family is doing well!



Rob Steele with his wife Ann and son Stebner.

2004  
Hilary Clement (Anderson)

Not much to share. Aside from the obvious plot to take over the world, I have gotten married and moved to Parker. My husband and I have been blessed with two beautiful baby girls Dakota 2yrs and Paxton 3 months. Life gets more amazing everyday. I still am in contact with other CRMS alumni and we do lunch regularly. I know I heard it said, but I never believed it. The friends I made at CRMS are truly amazing and will be with me forever.

2009  
Duncan Marsh

I'm currently a teacher at a programing bootcamp. It's a startup that trains adults to be computer programmers, and coaches them through job placement. I am a full time lead Instructor and the primary curriculum developer for our advanced software development course. In my class I teach people to create and deploy apps like Instagram, Pintrest, and Etsy. Even though most of my time is dedicated to programing these days, I still draw and make art almost every day!! I still keep

in touch with a lot of people from CRMS! Some I talk to frequently, but even when I don't I still consider my CRMS crew some of the dearest friends in my life :) Hope all is well in the RF Valley, I sure miss the mountains!"

2010  
Kat Coates

I still remember my first visit to CRMS in 2008. I was instantly in love and just after a day I knew there was a lot to learn from this school. Since my graduation in 2010 I have grown and developed more than I believed I would. An ache for adventure still grasps at my heart and an intense focus and confidence instilled by CRMS for all of my future endeavors remains. I've recently been thrown into the world of politics -- I like to consider myself one of the good guys. I say thrown because it's a far cry from original and longest set ambitions, but the more recent turn of political events has caused the realization that change needs to happen. I am working to start an organization called Evolve Chicago. Evolve Chicago is a community based movement focusing on peace, equality, and education by electing a better Chicago. If you had asked me in 2008 where I would be, the only thing I would know is that it would never be politics. But CRMS taught me strong morals, it encouraged me to be bold in the face of injustice, and it provided me the skills I need for a wide variety endeavors. While politics will not be my final destination, it certainly is a large chapter of my life, and with the lessons I learned from CRMS I have no doubt I will complete this chapter successfully, honestly, and with a smooth transition to my end goal in this lifetime. For more information on Evolve Chicago please find us at [www.evolvechicago.org](http://www.evolvechicago.org)

2011  
Taylor Gilman

I am working as an 8th Grade Language Arts teacher in Pueblo, CO.

Miranda Price

I am working with other former alumni to put together a book of memories and pictures of Sandra Ineza to give to her parents for the 2 year anniversary of her death in a tragic car accident. Other alums

are Jocelyne, Shelby, Charinne, Angeline, Katie and a few more who all knew her well.

2012  
James Lipe

I’m three weeks from graduating from Northeastern with a chemical engineering degree, then going to Nicaragua and backpacking through Central/South America.

Aubrey Mason  
I am currently living and working in Prague, Czech Republic with Vojtech Curin who also attended CRMS.

Thorne Warner  
Graduated from Westminster College in Salt Lake City in 2016!

Yang Yang  
I just completed a 6-month intensive culinary training in NYC, pretty much immediately after college graduation. Right now I plan on traveling for the remainder of the school year and wait for the results of grad school applications.

2013  
Pia Trapp  
Last summer I went backpacking in the Swedish backcountry and currently I am getting my Chemistry degree in Germany.

2014  
Jackson Carter  
I am a geology major (thanks Kayo) and I have a small 3D modeling business.

Lexie Jones  
I am currently sitting in a coffee shop in Siem Reap, Cambodia watching the tuk tuks and motorbikes zoom through the streets, dodging tourists and food carts. I’ve spent the past four months in Southeast Asia, studying on an anthropology program through my school, Lewis & Clark College. I have been doing self-designed anthropological research on tourism in Siem Reap and just finished my first ethnography on my research. Most excitingly, I will be heading to Chiang Mai, Thailand in a few weeks where I will meet up with Caleigh Smith, another CRMS alum from the class of 2014. I’m so excited to reconnect with a friend from CRMS, even if it took both of us being across the world to be in the same place!

Libby Kasmer  
CRMS was the best decision of my life so far. I really believe that. I went to Lewis & Clark College ready to move on and start the rest of my life but sometimes it was difficult to not compare college to CRMS. I spent two years at Lewis & Clark and then decided to take some time off of school. I’m currently deciding where I want to transfer to while I take a couple of classes at Montana State in the

time being. However CRMS did give me wonderful life skills and helped me find what is important to me and what my passions are. Before going to CRMS I had no clue what I loved to do and after CRMS I’ve found a clearer path to what I want to potentially pursue in the future. I have continued climbing and I have a greater appreciation for the outdoors now. I am currently working at On the Rise Bakery, which my brother owns (who is also a CMRS alum, so we are a power team of baking!) I am hoping to finish college sooner rather than later but for now I am taking some personal time to truly start to figure out the direction of my life that I want to invest in.

Caleigh Smith  
Afterstudyingpoliticalecology,sustainable agriculture, and environmental well-being last semester in Thailand, I am now writing for College Outside and CO Ski Country USA, finishing up my Ecological and Environmental Journalism major and Spanish minor, playing in a bluegrass band on campus, telemark skiing as much as I can, and riding for Colorado College’s equestrian team.

Dwayne Yin  
Currently studying in the UK.

*If you would like to send us an update on new additions to your family, marriages, travel, education accomplishments or work news, please go to: [www.crms.org/alumni/staying-in-touch/update-your-information/](http://www.crms.org/alumni/staying-in-touch/update-your-information/).*

Stevenson Atherton ’67  
passed away peacefully on December 7, 2016 surrounded by family and friends. His tremendous resilience, determination, and grit were exhibited until the end. Born in California and raised in Texas, Steve graduated from the Colorado Rocky Mountain School and Stanford University. Steve enjoyed many pursuits throughout his life; he was an avid outdoorsman and loved to ski, hike, hunt, and fish. Steve was also a lifelong student of liberal arts and enjoyed literature, politics, and history, while also enjoying the occasional bad science fiction movie. He was energetic, affable and charming, and throughout his life he was fortunate enough to be surrounded by an unwavering group of friends.

Steve worked for a number of years in the heavy machinery business. Thereafter, he engaged in various corporate development, financial services, and entrepreneurial pursuits. Throughout his life, he was involved in various civic and educational organizations. He was blessed and fortunate to have been able to experience all the best that life had to offer.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Holt Atherton and Roberta Stevenson Atherton. He is survived by his step-mother, Flora Crichton; by his brothers, Holt Atherton, Jr. and Geary Atherton; by his children, Parker Atherton and wife, Annie, Annabel Atherton, Andrew Atherton and his wife, Brooke, and Maxwell Atherton, as well as his three grandchildren, Isabelle, Carolina, and Jack.

An admirer of Sir Winston Churchill, Steve embodied the following well-known Churchill quote and remained a fighter until the end. The eternal optimist if there ever was one: “Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.”



James Peshlakai, father of Jamescita Peshlaki ’86 and grandfather of Jaime Butler ’19... a cultural icon, hataali, and one of the most influential Diné storytellers, has died. He was 71. Peshlakai died on Feb. 4, his family announced.

“James Peshlakai, a gentle giant has breathed his last,” his daughter, Arizona State Senator Jamescita Peshlakai, wrote on her Facebook page. “My father’s spirit has left his body. He taught us our bodies are loaned to us as vessels for our souls, and we’ll go back to our creator.”

“Our father was a traditional Navajo man,” she added later.During his last and final interview with the Navajo Times, Peshlakai (Béesh Łigaii, Diné bizaad kehjí) wanted to talk about his community of Cameron, Arizona, where he resided for most of his life.

“We were always in a lawsuit!” Peshlakai exclaimed as he talked about the old days in Cameron. “Man, we were just up in the court rooms all the time! We went to bed thinking about lawsuits! And that’s how we grew up, struggling for our people.”

“We had to educate our attorneys and the hearing officer about our lifestyle, our tradition, and how we use the land,” he continued. “We also involved our children, who saw us struggling and teaching non-Natives about the history of this region. And they learned about the struggle the Diné people went through since the beginning of time.”

Born in the Wupatki area in north-central Arizona on April 7, 1945, Peshlakai was exceptional from the beginning. He was also a courageous and a committed leader.

In 1995, Peshlakai, who always said he is Diné-Kiis’aanii-Chishí, was instrumental in starting adult education in conjunction with Northern Arizona University, where he taught applied Indigenous studies for a number of years.

Among other things, Peshlakai served as chapter president and secretary-treasure for five terms, was once a member of the Navajo Bar Association, practicing law in tribal courts, and teaching at Diné College and lecturing at venues across the country.

Throughout his distinguished life, Peshlakai was given many awards, including the Marvin E. Johnson Award, an international mark of recognition for appreciation of conflict resolution.

Peshlakai was the owner and operator of the Peshlakai Cultural Foundation and the Peshlakai Trading Co. and Gallery in Tusayan, Arizona.

In May 2014, Peshlakai received an honorary diploma from Greyhills Academy High School. He dedicated the honor to his wife, Mae Walker Peshlakai, of more than 50 years.

“I feel good,” Peshlakai said at that point in time. “She’s the mother of my children and the mother of my grandchildren.”

But through thick and thin, Peshlakai always stood beside her, Mae Peshlakai always says. “We did it together.”

James Peshlakai was the son of the late Clyde and Katherine Peshlakai. He was Kinłichíí’nii and born for Tsénjłikini. He leaves behind his wife, four adult children – son Darcy Peshlakai and daughters Jamescita Peshlakai, Stephanie Peshlakai-Carrillo, Shalta Peshlakai; 12 grand children, one great grandchild; and eight siblings.

FACULTY NEWS



Mark Clark  
Welcomed a granddaughter, Thea Wren Hutchison, on October 17, 2016. Congratulations to Hannah ’99 and Adam Hutchison.



Jim Gaw  
Welcomed a granddaughter, Hunter Hak Gaw, on February 23. Congratulations to Caleb ’00 and Marriaine.



Juanma Martin  
Juanma and his wife Eli Rojas welcomed their first child Xoel Martin Rojas, on January 31, 2017.

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](mailto:amineo@crms.org) with his/her new address.*

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Alumni Relations Manager, 970.963.2562 ext. 131 with questions.

**We look forward to seeing you!**