

Insights



**FOUNDATION & ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PUEBLO**



Happy Spring, Pack Nation!

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well after the winter season and the first part of spring.

Here in Pueblo, we did not have much of a winter in terms of cold and snow, but we have been busy this spring preparing for Commencement and readying this year's class of graduating seniors to become the future leaders our country and world need.

This time of year is exciting for the CSU Pueblo Foundation and our Trustees. Being able to attend end-of-year celebrations, welcome new members to the Alumni Association, and provide last minute career advice is why we do the work that we do.

And as a partner with the CSU Pueblo Foundation and CSU Pueblo, you have played a big role in helping our graduating seniors reach this point. Your philanthropic efforts have elevated their financial pressures and provided a world-class learning environment to arm them with the skills needed to succeed.

Finally, I am excited to welcome Dr. Rhonda Epper as CSU Pueblo's 17th president. Dr. Epper arrives at CSU Pueblo after serving as Trinidad State College's president for the last six years. In her short time as our leader (started March 23, 2026), Dr. Epper and her team have already created a balanced budget, which is unheard of in today's state and federal funding issues, and has started engaging in the Pueblo community.

Thank you again for your partnership and all that you do for our students.

Let's Go Pack!

Todd Kelly
President/CEO
CSU Pueblo Foundation

Spring is always a season of momentum on campus. There is an energy that comes with celebrating achievements, welcoming new beginnings, and looking ahead to what is next. It is also a time when I am especially reminded of the strength and spirit of our alumni community.

Over the past year, our Alumni Board has gone above and beyond in supporting the university and our students. From volunteering at events and mentoring students to helping us expand engagement opportunities, their dedication continues to make a meaningful impact. Whether they are welcoming fellow alumni back to campus, serving as ambassadors in the community, or lending their time and talent behind the scenes, their commitment reflects the very best of what it means to be part of the Pack. I am incredibly grateful for their leadership and service.

As we look ahead, I hope you will find ways to stay connected and engaged. One of our favorite traditions is just around the corner, CSU Pueblo Day at the Rockies. It is a fantastic opportunity to come together, show your Pack pride, and enjoy a great day of baseball with fellow ThunderWolves. We would love to see you there and continue building the connections that make our alumni network so special!

Finally, I want to extend a warm ThunderWolf welcome to the incoming Class of 2026! You are joining a community that is proud, passionate, and invested in your success. From your first day on campus to the moment you walked across the stage at graduation, and long after, you are part of something bigger. Our alumni stand ready to support you, cheer you on, and celebrate all that you will accomplish.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community. Your engagement, generosity, and pride in CSU Pueblo are what keep our Pack strong.

Once a ThunderWolf, always a ThunderWolf.

Go Pack!

Daniel Minich
Director of Alumni Relations & Engagement
CSU Pueblo Foundation
alumni@csupueblo.edu
719-549-2858



NOT SURE WHO TO TALK TO? MEET THE FOUNDATION STAFF & BOARD

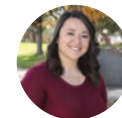
FOUNDATION STAFF



Todd Kelly
President/CEO
fundraising questions, board questions, executive leadership, estate/legacy planned gifts
719.549.2241 • todd.kelly@csupueblo.edu



Sandy Lundahl
Director of Foundation Scholarships
all things scholarships, Friends and Scholars, endowments
719.549.2965 • sandy.lundahl@csupueblo.edu



Sammi Mutz
Assistant Director of Gift Processing & Stewardship
update contact info, student outreach/thank you
719.549.2469 • sammi.mutz@csupueblo.edu



Daniel Minich
Director of Alumni Relations & Engagement
crowdfunding, annual giving, Give Day, outreach, alumni communications, events
719.549.2858 • daniel.minich@csupueblo.edu



Valerie Gallegos
Director of Budget & Finance
account balances, finance questions, invoices
719.549.2140 • valerie.gallegos@csupueblo.edu



Susie Pagnotta
Director of Data Analysis & Gift Processing
tax receipts, queries, data inquiry, gift processing
719.549.2682 • susie.pagnotta@csupueblo.edu



Lamech Mbise
Director of Academic Philanthropy
fundraising, donor relations, estate planning, campaign planning, giving societies
719.549.2565 • lamech.mbise@csupueblo.edu



Ella Trask
Operations Coordinator
operations, student employee management, board correspondence, and general questions
719.549.2442 • ella.trask@csupueblo.edu



James Muller
Marketing, Communications, & Events Manager
marketing/communications, gala, tickets, graphic design
719.549.2307 • james.muller@csupueblo.edu

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*Ex-Officio

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DONATIONS

The Keys to Success

At Colorado State University Pueblo, music has long connected campus and community through recitals, choir performances and concerts. Today, many of the instruments that made those moments possible are reaching the end of their lives, and the music program is rallying support to ensure future students can continue to learn and perform at a high level.

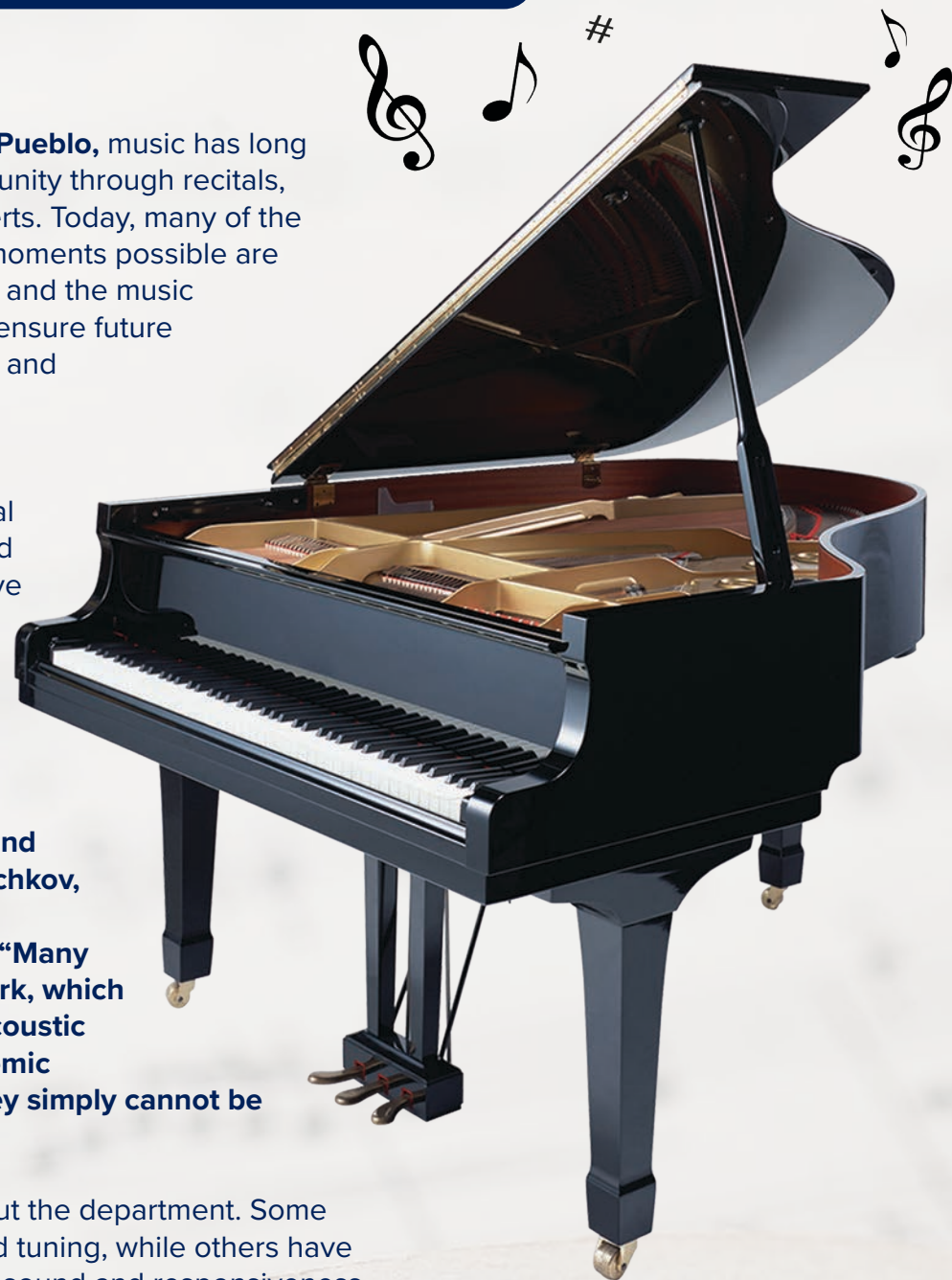
Pianos are central across the department. Found in rehearsal rooms, studios, classrooms and performance spaces, they serve not just piano majors but vocalists, instrumentalists, composers and future educators.

“Our pianos were mostly purchased in the late 1960s and early 1970s,” said Zahari Metchkov, DMA, professor of music and coordinator of piano studies. “Many have reached the 50-year mark, which is the typical lifespan of an acoustic piano in a heavily used academic setting. At a certain point, they simply cannot be repaired anymore.”

That reality is visible throughout the department. Some instruments can no longer hold tuning, while others have structural wear that limits their sound and responsiveness.

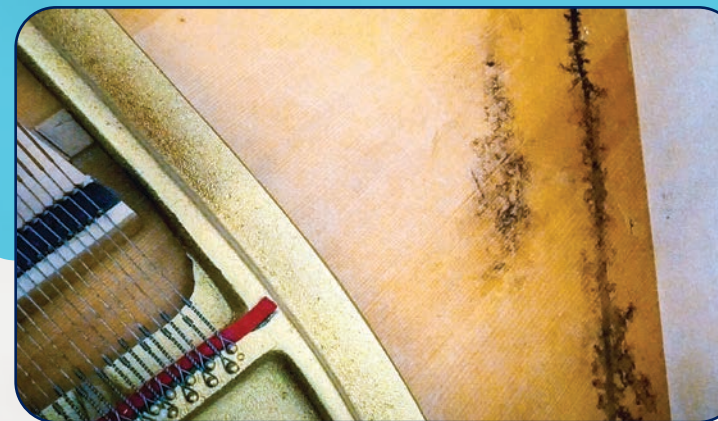
“We have 48 pianos in the department, and about 90 percent of them can no longer be tuned or restored for meaningful use,” said Mark Hudson, chair of the music department.

The impact extends beyond piano majors. CSU Pueblo’s nationally accredited music program requires all students to develop keyboard proficiency. Pianos are used daily for rehearsal, pitch training, accompaniment and classroom preparation.



Music Department Pianos

“At a certain point, they simply cannot be repaired anymore.”
– Zahari Metchkov, DMA



“Even our choir relies on pianos constantly,” said Susan Kinnischtzke, interim director of choral activities. “Students deserve a high-quality experience that prepares them for the field.”

Outdated instruments also affect recruitment and retention, as prospective students and visiting artists expect performance-quality equipment. The urgency was underscored during a recent accreditation review. While the program has been accredited since 1962, piano condition is now the primary area at risk.

“The one area we do not meet standard is the pianos,” Hudson said. “We were specifically told the institution has to address this.”

Despite the challenge, progress is underway. Recent donor support has funded new classroom instruments and a modernized piano lab, allowing usable pianos to be redistributed to practice rooms.

Now, the department is launching a broader campaign to replace aging instruments across campus. Needs range from practice pianos to concert grands, which can cost \$75,000 to \$80,000.

Faculty emphasize that impact can come from gifts of any size.



“A piano has 88 keys and hundreds of strings,” Metchkov said. “Each one can be supported by someone.”

For CSU Pueblo, investing in pianos is an investment in students, educators and the broader community.

The music department serves as a cultural hub for Southern Colorado, hosting performances and events that enrich the region.

As the campaign moves forward, donors have an opportunity to help ensure that CSU Pueblo’s music continues to thrive for decades to come.



See more about “The Keys to Success” by scanning the QR CODE below.



SCAN ME

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Building More than Fields

Jonathan Quenzer didn't follow a straight line to reach success. It wound its way from corporate law offices in Dallas back to the streets of Pueblo, where he grew up riding his bike near what is now the Colorado State University Pueblo campus. Today, as the owner of Rocky Mountain Turf Solutions, Quenzer is helping shape athletic spaces across the region while quietly investing in the future of the community he calls home.

"I was a corporate lawyer... deals all over the world," Quenzer said. "But it's also a grind. And I started thinking about coming back home."

That decision to return to Pueblo marked a turning point. After briefly exploring law locally, Quenzer leaned into entrepreneurship. What started as a small venture removing and repurposing old turf fields evolved into a thriving business installing synthetic athletic surfaces across Colorado and neighboring states. Today, his company works with schools, universities, and municipalities to deliver high-quality, low-maintenance fields designed for both performance and safety.

"The biggest benefit about turf is it's low maintenance... but more importantly, it plays consistently," he said.

While his work spans multiple states, Quenzer has remained rooted in Pueblo, a place he believes offers something increasingly rare.

"You don't get to connect with people like you do in Pueblo in a big city," he said. "I like the closeness here. I like the ability to build and make a difference."

That connection extends to Colorado State University Pueblo. Though he did not attend the university, it has long been part of his life. His mother, sister, and business partner are alumni, and his father was a devoted fan.

"I was able to share those experiences with him... and I got more involved as a tribute to him," Quenzer said.

Over time, that involvement has grown beyond attendance. Quenzer has supported the university financially since returning to Pueblo around 2011 and has increasingly engaged with its athletic programs.

"It's a huge asset to our community," he said. "It's a big economic and social driver... and I think it's undervalued for what it really is."

Quenzer sees the university as both a gateway and a catalyst, attracting new talent while helping local students build meaningful careers.

"I believe strongly in community," he said. "People can achieve so much more if they feel like they're part of a group."

Looking ahead, he hopes to deepen his involvement and serve as a mentor to student-athletes.

"I want to get more involved... and help them not just in sports, but in their careers and life," he said.

For Quenzer, supporting CSU Pueblo is ultimately about investing in the future of Pueblo itself.



PACK EVENTS



OCTOBER HOMECOMING WEEK



14

10/14

Donuts with Alumni

15

10/15

Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner *(tickets required)*

16

10/16

Baseball Alumni Golf Tournament
Pack Volleyball vs. Mines *(sep. ticket required)*
Athletics Hall of Fame Induction *(sep. ticket required)*
Family Weekend & Welcome Dinner
ASG Bonfire

17

10/17

Baseball Alumni Game
Marching Band & Music Alumni Activities
Student & Family Tailgate (Wolfden)
Alumni & Community Tailgate (Leomiti)
Pack Football vs. News Mexico Highlands University *(sep. ticket required)*

MORE EVENTS

2026

Pride of the Pack

July 30 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Developing Champions Luncheon

October 7 11:30am to 1:00pm

Academic Friends & Scholars

October 28 11:30am to 1:00pm

2027

CSU President's Soirée

March 16 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Give Day

April 1-2 Noon to Noon

CSU Pueblo President's Gala

May 22 5:30pm - 8:30pm

STUDENT STORY

Opening Doors: Jordan Martinez's Path to Dentistry

Scholarship Impact

- Scholarships make it possible for Jordan to attend college full-time
- Eliminates the need to work multiple jobs while in school
- Provides access to academic programs like the Honors Program
- Creates opportunities to build connections with faculty and donors

"I would not be able to go to college without scholarships."
- Jordan Martinez

Advice to Other Students

- Ask for help early and often
- Build relationships with mentors and peers
- Take time to apply for scholarships
- Stay focused on long-term goals

"People don't know you need help unless you ask."
- Jordan Martinez

SCAN CODE WITH
SMARTPHONE TO HELP
STUDENTS LIKE JORDAN



SCAN ME

For Jordan Martinez, the path to college began with a simple but life-changing question.

"What are you going to do with your life?"

At the time, Martinez was working as a dental assistant in Pueblo, a role she had held for two years after high school. She enjoyed the work, but it was during an evaluation with her employer that everything shifted.

"That's when I started to see a future for myself in dentistry," Martinez said. "And I knew in order to get there, I had to go to college."

Today, Martinez is pursuing a degree in health sciences with a pre-dental emphasis at Colorado State University Pueblo. Her journey reflects determination, mentorship, and the critical role of scholarship support.

After high school, Martinez did not have a clear plan. Dental assisting school gave her direction, but it was the encouragement of her employer, Dr. Jamie Johnson, that helped her take the next step.

"Like a bonus parent," Martinez said. "She really took me in and saw my potential. She and her family are my family now."

That support gave Martinez the confidence to pursue higher education, even as a first-generation college student.

"Earning a degree really matters to me because I'm a first-generation college student," she said. "It's hard, but it's also really rewarding because I have younger siblings that look up to me."

Without a family history of college to guide her, Martinez has had to navigate the experience largely on her own. Still, she sees her role as an opportunity to lead.

"I'm the first one because I'm the only one brave enough to push that door open," she said.

That courage alone, however, would not have been enough without financial support.

"I would not be able to go to college if I didn't have scholarships," Martinez said. "Without scholarships or donor support, I would have to work full-time just to pay for living expenses. I wouldn't be able to attend school at the same time."

Scholarships have allowed Martinez to focus on her studies, become involved on campus, and build meaningful connections. Through those opportunities, she joined the honors program and expanded her network.

For Martinez, one of the most impactful aspects of receiving scholarships is the chance to connect with the people who make them possible.

"Those relationships are really important to me," she said. "Being able to thank donors and let them know they're making a difference—that means a lot."

Her experience has also shaped the advice she offers to others.

"Build connections. Ask for help," Martinez said. "People don't know you need help unless you ask."

Looking ahead, Martinez plans to attend dental school, a goal that once felt out of reach. Now, it represents something much bigger.

"Because of this support, I can now dream of being the first person in my family to get my college degree and then head toward dental school," she said.

For Martinez, that dream is not just about her future. It is about opening the door for those who follow.

Your donations and support can help other students answer their life-changing questions. Please consider giving today to the CSU Pueblo Foundation and making an impact that lasts a lifetime.



COLORADO STATE
PUEBLO THU



CLASS NOTES

Where the Pack Wanders



CLASS NOTES

Continued



1900's

Mary Starritt, A66, Colorado Springs, CO: Mary is a retired teacher and reports that she is still alive and doing well.

Marlene Highberger, A67, Pueblo, CO: Marlene retired from teaching in the RE 2 Fremont School District and is an alumna of the University of Southern Colorado State College, graduating in 1967, later earning her master's degree from Lesley College after completing her secondary

education at Central High School in 1962. She began her teaching career at Central High School in 1967, where she taught Physical Education and Art, and went on to hold a variety of roles within District 60. In 1983, Marlene joined RE 2 at Florence Middle School, teaching Social Studies, Physical Education, Language Arts, and Art until her retirement in 2006. She continued contributing to education by substituting for District 60 until 2021.

Eleanor Biederman, A70, Plattsmouth NE: Eleanor is a retired homemaker and is married to another

graduate of Southern Colorado State College, class of 1971; he is also retired. Together, they are proud parents of two sons and grandparents to four grandsons.

John Cox, A71, Seattle, WA: John is enjoying his tenth year of retirement from the railroad, having spent the final thirteen years of his career operating Sounder commuter trains between Seattle and Everett as well as Seattle and Tacoma/Lakewood. He began working in the industry at just seventeen years old.

Brian Varney, A74, Aurora, CO: Brian is a labor advocate and lobbyist with the AFL CIO, serving as a CARA Board Member as well as a Board Member for the RTD ATU Chapter.

Bisby Hodges, A75, Bartlesville, OK: Bisby is retired and works in clergy and self-employment, enjoying a lifestyle that includes traveling, spending time with family, and appreciating classic cars.

Gary Nickell, A76, Colorado Springs, CO: Gary is retired after a long academic career. He graduated from the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo in 1976 with a major in psychology, then went on to earn both a master's degree and a PhD in social psychology from Oklahoma State University. In 1982, he joined the faculty at Moorhead State University in Moorhead, Minnesota, where he taught for decades and served as chair of the Psychology Department for ten years before retiring in 2018 as Professor Emeritus. In 2023, Gary and his wife, Susie, returned to Colorado Springs.

Deborah Sanchez, A85, Pueblo, CO: Deborah worked as a Registered Nurse in the Cardiac Cath Lab and Electrophysiology Lab, serving across Parkview Episcopal Hospital, Parkview Hospital, Parkview Medical Center, Parkview Health Systems, and UCHHealth Parkview. She retired after an impressive 44 year career in nursing. Deborah currently resides in Pueblo, where she enjoys spending time with family and friends and traveling.

Larry Lee, A91, Cedar Rapids, IA: Larry is the President of Blackburn College and previously served as Vice President at three institutions of higher education. He is also a former member of the United States National Coaching Staff.

Daniel Alonzo, A92, Thornton, CO: Daniel is a Senior Project Manager for George & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Gregory Hobbs, A93, Huntsville, AL: Gregory is a Senior Engineer at Blue Origin and is in his twenty eighth year in the aerospace industry. Throughout his career, he has contributed to several major rocket programs, including Delta II, Delta III, Delta IV, Ares I, Atlas V, Vulcan, New Glenn, and the Blue Engines program.

Leslie Shepard, A96, Pueblo, CO: Leslie is the President and CEO of SunWest Credit Union.

Marlo Gallegos, A97, Pueblo, CO: Marlo is an RN Nurse Consultant for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and currently serves as an Adjunct Nursing Professor at Colorado State University Pueblo. She previously worked as an RN Nurse

Consultant for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General.

Terry Bissell, A98, Aurora CO: Terry is the Vice President of Retail Operations for Alton Lane.

Heather Bissell, A99, Aurora, CO: Heather is the Senior Director of Customer CARE for Nordstrom.

Zane Reif, A99, Round Rock, TX: Zane is the Associate Vice President for Campus Services at the University of Texas at Austin, a role he began in April 2025. He oversees a wide range of auxiliary services and hospitality functions for the university, including Parking & Transportation, Document Solutions, Child Development Centers, Travel Management Services, Records Information Management, the Texas Swimming Center and Longhorn Aquatics, the Commons Events Center at Research Park, and multiple dining and catering areas across campus.

2000's

Christopher Kolomitz, A00, Salida, CO: Christopher is the owner of Settings Event Rental and, after an early career in newspapers as a

reporter and editor, is now celebrating 15 years of small business ownership alongside his wife, Betsy, in Salida. He provides logistics and equipment rentals for weddings, festivals, and corporate events, and is the father of two young children, Michael (5) and Lizzie (2).

Paul Hurtado, A02, Reno, NV: Paul is an Associate Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he is a tenured faculty member in Mathematics & Statistics and a graduate faculty member in the interdisciplinary Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology program. He relocated to Reno after completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Mathematical Biosciences Institute at The Ohio State University. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his wife and three children and remains an avid bird watcher, having been part of the 2016 team that set Nevada's current "big day" record with 171 species observed in a single day.

Candice Montoya, A02, Pueblo, CO: Candice is the Assistant Principal for GOAL High School and also works as an Adjunct Instructor for Pueblo Community College. She serves on the board for Crossroads and was crowned Mrs. Front Range, Colorado 2025. She recently received Mariposa's Outstanding

Woman Award in the area of Professional Achievement and is recognized in the Global Volunteer Recognition Program for 2025.

Katie Velarde, A02, Pueblo, CO: Katie works in College Admissions for South University and brings more than 15 years of experience in higher education, including over 12 years at CSU Pueblo. Her professional background also includes roles in marketing, healthcare administration, and mental health. In addition to her higher education career, she has owned and operated several small businesses, with her most successful business now in its tenth year making and distributing handmade gemstone diffuser bracelets. She believes in pursuing multiple streams of income and building businesses around personal passions.

Brya Montoya, A04, Kennewick, WA: Brya is an Environmental Scientist for the Central Plateau Cleanup Company, advancing her work in environmental compliance and hazardous waste management over the past year. After transitioning from her longtime role in Colorado to Washington State, she now supports nuclear site cleanup at the legacy U.S. Department of Energy Hanford Site, providing

CLASS NOTES

Continued

regulatory oversight and leading RCRA compliance efforts for large scale decommissioning and remediation projects. She recently earned the Registered Environmental Manager (REM) certification, strengthening her ability to lead multidisciplinary environmental programs and collaborate with state and federal regulatory agencies. As she nears completion of her Master of Environmental Policy and Management degree, she looks forward to integrating academic insight with field experience to support sustainable environmental solutions nationwide. Her wife, a fellow USC/CSU Pueblo graduate (Class of 2001), works for the State of Washington. Their eldest daughter is a junior at the University of Northern Colorado majoring in Human Services, and their youngest graduated early from Centennial High School in Pueblo in spring 2025.

Stefan Jelinek, A06, Munich, Germany: Stefan is the Founder, Owner, and CEO of his firm, Stefan Martin Jeline, where he also works as a private investor, business angel, and Executive Director.

Lana Brumfield, A08, Pueblo, CO: Lana is a Nurse Practitioner and

Educator for Trinity School–Pueblo. She holds a Ph.D. in Education with a specialty in Nursing and has been recognized in Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities. She also serves on the CSU Pueblo Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Erica Morales, A08, Marietta, GA: Erica is the Director of Enrollment Services for Mercer University, building on a higher education career that began at CSU Pueblo, where she first worked as a student ambassador before transitioning into an Admissions Advisor role after graduation. That early experience sparked her passion for college admissions and set her on a professional path that has taken her from Denver to Phoenix and now Atlanta. Since 2021, she has led enrollment efforts for Mercer University’s ABSN program and remains deeply grateful to CSU Pueblo for the foundation, mentorship, and opportunities that shaped her journey.

Christopher Jahn, A10, Pueblo, CO: Christopher is a Family Caregiver who is nearing completion of his graduate degree in Public Administration

at UCCS (2018–2025). He took significant time away from his studies to care for an elderly family member who lives with his immediate family.

Richard Roybal, A10, Pueblo, CO: Richard is a Special Education teacher for Pueblo School District 60 and has been teaching since 2018 in both special education and social studies. He returned to CSU Pueblo to earn his teaching license and later completed his master’s degree in education in 2021; he is now pursuing his principal license. He currently serves as the Special Education Department Chair at Dutch Clark Digital. His earlier professional experiences include a 2010 Smithsonian Internship and work as an associate curator for the Fort Garland Museum from 2011 to 2012. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his two sons, traveling with his girlfriend, and caring for his five cats.

DaMarkus James, A11, Denver, CO: DaMarkus is a Technical Editor for Atkins Réalis and has lived in Denver since January 2018, sustaining a career in technical writing since May 2018.

Chelsy Smalley, A11, Colorado Springs, CO: Chelsy is a Special Education Communications Access Facilitator for District

20 and has spent more than 11 years supporting students with special needs.

Randall Dupre, A14, Dardenne Prairie, MO: Randall is a Senior Manager for Boeing, leading a global team of enterprise culture and engagement regional leads. He is a certified Six Sigma Black Belt, a John Maxwell certified speaker, trainer, and coach, and the founder of Forgepoint LLC.

Patrick Farris-Hilaire, A14, Denver, CO: Patrick is a Case Manager for St. Francis Center.

Robert Geonetta, A14, Pueblo, CO: Robert is a Referral Specialist for Interventions Community Corrections Services and will be beginning a master’s degree program in the fall.

Sara Padilla, A14, Pueblo, CO: Sara is an Athletic Trainer for Coastal Orthopedics, having transitioned from her previous role in minor league baseball as part of the Baltimore Orioles’ sports medicine team to her current work in outpatient rehabilitation.

CLASS NOTES

Continued

Dexter Smith, A14, Denver, CO: Dexter is the Lead Clerk for the Denver Public Library and has been part of the library system for more than ten years.

Kamarea Garduno, A16, Pueblo, CO: Kamarea is a CCM for RMHS. Through her career, she has been able to find herself and cross paths with many wonderful individuals within the community. She is thankful for CSU Pueblo, a place that will forever hold a special place in her heart and so many memories. She describes the growth she has experienced over the past eight years as truly life transforming.

Alisha Mason, A17, Lamar, CO: Alisha is a veterinarian at Lamar Animal Medical Center, where she has worked for three years. She recently welcomed her first baby, born in May.

Isaac Cobbs, A18, Aurora, CO: Isaac enjoys working from home and spending time with his son, who was born in early 2025. He is becoming increasingly involved in automation work using Python and Power Automate, and he ensures

that advertisements are properly scheduled to air on next day schedules for networks across the nation.

Lacy Page, A18, Pueblo, CO: Lacy is the Technical Director for KRDO and is celebrating four years with the station. Thanks to her degree and her experience with RMPBS, she has been able to work in her dream job. She is also in a new journey of learning OverDrive and gaining new skills for her role.

Chris San Miguel, A18, Pueblo, CO: Chris is a Dispatcher for City Cab LLC and previously taught at DPH, where he helped raise student test scores before the district ultimately chose to close the school.

Candince Trujillo, A20, Pueblo, CO: Candince is an Exceptional Student Services Teacher for Pueblo County School District 70 and has been a special education teacher for seven years, including four years working in an affective needs program. She recently married the love of her life and continues to dedicate her career to supporting students with diverse learning needs.

Noah Suazo, A21, Pueblo, CO: Noah is the Music Teacher at Fountain Mesa Elementary School

(K–5) and was named the school’s 2024–2025 Employee of the Year out of a staff of 70. He also performs throughout southern Colorado with the Pueblo Symphony, the Pueblo Municipal Band, the Fountain Valley Community Band, and The Virtue Jazz Trio. He is a dedicated advocate for high quality music education and is committed to helping students develop a lasting love for music.

Elsie Lokey, A22, Pueblo, CO: Elsie is a Program Manager for the Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center, where she has worked since graduating with her degree in wildlife. She leads outdoor education programs and summer camps, finding it deeply rewarding to inspire and educate young people about conservation, our relationship with natural resources, and the importance of protecting wildlife.

Luke Allevalo, A23, Castle Rock, CO: Luke is an AI Engineer for Lockheed Martin and will soon graduate with his master’s degree in Software Development from Grand Canyon University. He recently moved into Lockheed Martin’s Chief Digital and AI Office, where he works with cutting edge technology to help transform the company.

Dusty Baca, A23, Pueblo, CO: Dusty is a high school ELA teacher for Pueblo City Schools District 60 and is in the third year of teaching at the same school where they completed student teaching.

Brittany Bohn, A23, Port St. Lucie, FL: Brittany is a Registered Nurse for Vitas Healthcare and has recently begun her MSN program to become a Family Nurse Practitioner.

Jasmine Lowe, A23, Pueblo, CO: Jasmine is a 7th grade Social Studies teacher at Pueblo Academy of Arts in Pueblo School District 60. She graduated with her master’s degree from Utah State University in May 2025 with a 4.0 GPA and a published thesis, and has since returned home to Pueblo to teach 7th grade social studies.

Eljon Marquez, A24, Aurora, CO: Eljon is a nurse at Highlands Behavioral Health, serving as the Charge Nurse in a high acuity inpatient mental health facility.

Brandy Smith, A24, Pueblo West, CO: Brandy is a Social Caseworker for the El Paso County Department of Human Services, where she supports foster youth in transition.

IN MEMORIAM



Lennie (Leonore) Kakalecik, BA67
Robert Leone, AAS75
Teeri Ehrenbock, AAS79
Lindy Vizyak, BS71

June 2025

Lynn Marie Faris, AA69
Melinda Kay Vice, BSBA90
James Nicholas Pruce, BS67

July 2025

Nicholas Manuel Casados, BSMET – 2000
Deward “Dewie” L. Thornton, AA56
John E. Welsby, BA66
Lewis D. DeAngelo, AA55
Patsy L. Reeder, BSBA – 2002
Patricia A. Dionisio – BA69
Richard “RIP” Joseph Aviña, BS76
Deputy Fire Chief – Keith Novak, BSBA – 2014

August 2025

Jack Monroe Stockton, AA48
Dr. Marlow Sloan – no degree listed – 1959
Kathleen Rae Eriksen, BA88
Joseph J. Robida, AA51
Bonnie Louise (Berger) Finch, BSW86
Velkis O. McCulley-Matthews, BS92
Angelina G. Pacheco, Cert74
Louis “Lou” Nelson, BS68
Caroline Kay Luellen, AAS76
Roman Lorenzo Tafoya, BS72
Robert “Bob” Leroy Webb, AAS60
Steven Bryan Schmidt, AAS70

September 2025

Helen M. Gonzales, BS82
Anthony E. Mattie, BS74

October 2025

Alberta “Abby” Allen, AA74
Stanley “Stan” Hensley, BA81
Icely Jackson, BS79
Laura Jurgens, BS81
Catherine Lee Wallace Massaro, Cert72
Antonio “Tony” Trujillo, BA73
William Bradley Erskine, BA67

November 2025

Vickie A. Hansen, Cert79
Mark S. Gazette, BSEET92
Tommy Lee Storm, BS72

Sandra “Sandy” Kay Wells, BS73
Rosita “Rose” Baca Trujillo, BS78
Lt. Col. (Ret.) Florencio Berumen, AA54
Linda Ann Greene Welte, BS95

December 2025

Frederick James Falletta, BS74
David Michael “Mike” Spence, BS75
Albert L. Giordano, AS61
Eulice A. Kogovsek, BS78
Alice Calderon, AA84
Candice Taravella, BS – 2006
Darrell Kobilan, BS70

January 2026

William Ronald Wahlmeier, BS67
Edward L. Montoya, BS73
Richard L. “Dick” Moran, AA54
Victor Harold Velarde Jr., AA55
Margaret E. Hecht, BS95
Carl Alfred Swanson Jr., BS67

February 2026

Beverly Kalb, AA74
Catherine Ann (Krause) Anderson, 2nd Major 66
John Gallegos, Sr., BS72
Herlinda R. Thurman, BA83
Janelle Sue Beltramo Bergant, BS75
Dennis R. Dodd, BS77
Dawn René Cekis, BS – 2010
Anthony Wayne Toth, BS71
Donald Gene Correnti, BA – 2006

March 2026

Deborah Nadine West, BA – 2005
Lorna Gail Megenity, BS89
Booth F. Pepper, BS – 2002
Suzanne Sturgeon Anton, MA76
Sharon Jo (Malott) Ellis, BS72
Ronald Lee Schwab, BS68
Josephine Robinson, AA73 and BA77
Rhoda Belle Firth, AA50
Ronald David Flannery, AA50
Greg M. Krasieski, BA73
Betty Brown, AA75 and BA77

April 2026

Loren Keith Coates, ShapeBA73
Edward K. Esquibel, BA70
Kim M. Meine, BS80, AAS81, BS83, MA91



CSU PUEBLO

ALUMNI

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Inspire current students — Your stories showcase the many paths a CSU Pueblo education can lead to, motivating the next generation.

Preserve history — Class notes create a living record of the growth, achievements, and spirit of our graduates.

Celebrate successes — From promotions to retirements, marriages to volunteer work, your milestones are moments worth honoring.

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GO PACK!



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