BRYAN McGINNIS  
Director of Football Operations

Bryan McGinnis is in his seventh year as the director of football operations at the University of Colorado, originally joining then-head coach Mike MacIntyre’s new Buffalo staff on January 2, 2013. When Mel Tucker retained him the same position when he took over the program in December 2018, he became the first to serve two head coaches as their ops director at CU since the position was created in 1988.

In his position, in which he has now served the longest-ever at Colorado, he coordinates many facets for the football program, including team travel arrangements, itineraries and scheduling.

McGinnis, 38, had served in the same capacity under MacIntyre for two seasons at San Jose State University, and thus accepted the invitation to follow him to Boulder. A life-long resident of the San Francisco Bay area, his time in Colorado has marked the first time he has ever lived outside of northern California.

Prior to being promoted to being in charge of San Jose State’s football operations, he spent six years on the Spartans’ coaching staff, working a variety of positions as an operations assistant in recruiting, equipment and video services. He also was a student assistant working with the defense, the line backers in particular, the 2005 through 2007 seasons, and then switched sides, working as a graduate assistant on offense (running backs) for the 2008 and 2010 season; in-between, in 2009 he was the staff’s operations assistant.

At San Jose, he was on the staffs of two teams that earned bowl invitations: the Spartans defeated New Mexico, 20-12, in the 2006 New Mexico Bowl (their first bowl since 1990) and beat Bowling Green, 29-20, in the 2012 Military Bowl. Those are the only two bowl games SJSU has ever played outside the state of California.

McGinnis played wide receiver for two years (2000-01) at Cabrillo College in Aptos, and then got into coaching, beginning his career at his alma mater, Harbor High School, where he spent two years as the school’s offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach. In 2003, he joined the San Francisco 49ers staff as an intern in the player personnel department.

He then returned to school to finish his degree, graduating from San Jose State with Bachelor’s in Kinesiology in 2007. While working with football, he took several graduate courses in Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation Management.

He was born June 22, 1981 in Santa Cruz, Calif., and graduated from its Harbor High School where he lettered in football and track. He is a certified speed training coach by SAC (Speed, Agility & Conditioning USA/Canada). He is married to the former Vrinda Murphy, who is a behavior therapist for children with autism; the couple has two daughters, Emily Margaret (5) and Maddaline Grace (2) and one son, Jacob Thomas (born this past January).

SCOTT UNREIN  
Assistant Director of Operations

Scott Unrein is in his eighth year on the University of Colorado football staff as the assistant director of operations, named to the position in July 2012. His previous duties included assisting in recruiting.

In August 2017, he was named to the “30 under 30” team of rising stars in college football by 247Sports, as he was nominated as CU’s “jack-of-all-trades life saver” for the football program, as he does a little bit of everything in his split roles between operations and recruiting.

His primary duties include overseeing the parents program, assisting with on-campus recruiting and daily football operations, including the team’s social media coordinator. He also advances all football road trips and works with hotel staff in coordinating all aspects of the team’s stay in opponent cities.

Unrein, 30, joined the football staff basically from the other side of Folsom Field, as he worked as an intern for coach Roy Edwards with the CU men’s golf team for the 2010-11 season. His role with the team included helping to facilitate and organize the 2011 NCAA Men’s Regional Championships that the Buffaloes hosted at Colorado National Golf Club in Erie, Colo.

He graduated from CU in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing. He also earned his Business of Sports Certificate in 2010.

He was born on August 31, 1988 in Sterling, Colo., and graduated from Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins where he played baseball and basketball. His hobbies include basketball, golf and hiking. He is married to the former Lauren Fowler, who is CU’s Assistant Director of Student-Athlete Leadership and Career Development.

GEOFF MARTZEN  
Director of Player Personnel

Geoff Martzen is in his first year as the director of player personnel, as he was named to the position by new head coach Mel Tucker on January 7, 2019.

Martzen, 30, joined the CU staff from UCLA, where he worked as the Bruins’ director of player personnel for the 2018 season, having been hired by Chip Kelly in January of that year. He previously held the same position at Colorado State for the 2015 through 2017 seasons.

Martzen joined the CSU staff under its new head coach, Mike Bobo, ahead of the 2015 season. At CSU, he played a key role in the Rams’ overall recruiting efforts, coordinating several aspects of the year-round student-athlete recruitment process. Additionally, he served as the liaison between CSU and NFL scouts for Pro Day events, and assists with camps, clinics and other football-related activities.

His first director of player personnel position came at Brigham Young University, which hired him 2013. In Provo for two years, he also served as the on-campus recruiting coordinator in addition to other responsibilities including identifying prospects, planning recruiting events, maintaining communication with recruits via social media and providing recruiting aids for coaches.

Prior to heading to BYU, Martzen was a personnel specialist, assisting in coordinating the recruitment of high school and junior college recruits, at both Alabama in 2012 and Boise State in 2013. In working under Nick Saban at ‘Bama and Chris Peterson at Boise, he helped in the coordination of two top recruiting classes for two of the nation’s winningest head coaches.

Before entering the collegiate ranks, he was a high school football coach in Fresno, Calif., at Sunnyside and Reedley high schools.

Martzen earned his bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology from Fresno State in 2011, and started working toward a master’s degree at Alabama in Sports and Fitness Administration in 2012 and at Boise State in Kinesiology and Exercise Science in 2013.

He was born June 21, 1989 in Reedley, Calif., and graduated from Reedley High School, where he lettered in football. His hobbies include camping, most sports and anything outdoors.

CYNAMONE GEORGE  
Director of Football Recruiting

Cynamone George is in her first year as the director of football recruiting at the University of Colorado, as she was named to the position on January 1, 2019. She is believed to be one of just four women serving in this most important role in major college football.

George, 28, joined the CU staff from her alma mater, Georgia Southern University, where she spent three years (2016-18) as the Eagles’ director of football operations; in 2018, was one of just five women to serve in that position. Named to the position just ahead of the 2016 season, she oversaw the daily administrative and operational duties within GSU’s program, along with coordinating team travel and other assorted responsibilities.

Prior to being named GSU’s director of ops, during the spring of 2016 she was the coordinator for business development with Georgia Southern Sports Properties. She previously for the 2015 football season served as the director of on-campus recruiting, organizing the on-campus phase of the recruiting process as well as overseeing the daily operation of the football offices. This was after she worked two years as a graduate assistant with football recruiting (2013-14).

George graduated in 2012 with a degree in Sports Management from GSU, where as an undergraduate she worked in the Eagle’s athletic marketing office.

She was born on March 30, 1991 in Columbus, S.C., and graduated from Dutch Fork (Irmo, S.C.) High School, where she lettered in tennis. Her hobbies include listening to national sports talk radio.
WILL PEAGLER
Director of Quality Control/Offense

Will Peagler is in his first year on the University of Colorado football staff, as he joined the program on January 9, 2019 as the director of quality control for the offense.

Peagler, 34, came to Colorado from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, where he spent the 2018 season as the Ragin’ Cajuns’ director of player personnel and quality control coordinator. UL won the Sun Belt West Division title but earned a berth into the AutoNation Cure Bowl, where it lost to Tulane. He helped UL recruit the No. 1 class in the SEC in February (and No. 5 in the Group of Five).

Peagler was scheduled to be the offensive line coach at Itawamba Community College (Fulton, Miss.) in 2017, but accepted a graduate assistant position at the University of Georgia, working with the offensive line. UGA was 13-2 for the year, reaching the College Football Playoff championship game where Alabama rallied to win in overtime. The Bulldogs were the SEC champions, defeating Auburn in the title game, and won the CFP semifinal in a wild 54-48 overtime win over Oklahoma at the Rose Bowl. He was also on the staff that signed the nation’s consensus top recruiting class for 2018.

He joined the University of Minnesota staff in January 2016 as an assistant in quality control for the offense, particularly working with the offensive line, where he was reunited current CU offensive coordinator Jay Johnson (the two worked together at Louisiana-Lafayette). In that role for the Gophers, he was in charge of opponent scouting, self-scouting and the day-to-day operations on the offensive side of the ball. Minnesota defeated Washington State in the Holiday Bowl and won nine games under coach Tracy Claeys.

Prior to heading to Minnesota, he was going to be the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at Jones County (Miss.) Junior College for the 2016 season, but had the opportunity to take the position at Minnesota. In 2015, he was the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at Olive Branch High School in Mississippi.

Peagler was at Coffeyville Community College in 2014, where he was the run game coordinator with additional duties as the school’s recruiting coordinator. Under his watch, the Ravens rushed for 2,671 yards and 22 touchdowns that season and went from scoring 27.8 points per game the year before to 48.2 (578 in 12 games). Previous to that, he had spent the 2011-13 seasons at Louisiana-Lafayette, where he first worked under Johnson. He first joined the Ragin’ Cajuns staff as an offensive line coach at a Division III school in 2009 (which worked out). In 2010, he was hired as the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at Columbus State Community College (Fulton, Miss.).

Peagler graduated from Clemson University with a degree in Sport Management in 2010. As undergraduate at CU, he was a student assistant for the Tiger football team under head coaches Tommy Bowden and Dabo Swinney from 2006-09.

He was born April 27, 1985 in Camp Lejeune, N.C., and graduated from the Holly Hill (S.C.) Academy where he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. His hobbies include working out, cooking, watching the Food Network and exploring new foods. (Last name is pronounced peagler.)

BRYAN COOK
Director of Quality Control/Defense

Bryan Cook is in his first year on the University of Colorado football staff, as he joined the program on March 1, 2019 as the director of quality control for the defense.

Cook, 42, a veteran coach of 20 seasons in the collegiate ranks, came to Colorado from Georgia Tech. He was on the Yellow Jackets’ staff as a quality control specialist for defense in 2018, his third stint with the school, assisting and focusing in particular with the play of outside linebackers. He previously had served as Georgia Tech’s quarterbacks and “B-backs” coach (2013-16) and as a graduate assistant with the Yellow Jackets (2001-03).

For the 2017 season, he was the offensive coordinator at Georgia Southern under head coach Tyson Summers, who is now CU’s defensive coordinator. During his four seasons on Paul Johnson’s offensive staff at Georgia Tech, he helped game plan one of the most dangerous offenses in college football. In 2016, the Yellow Jackets had over 5,000 yards of total offense (3,355 rushing) en route to an 8-win season, one that included wins over Virginia Tech and Georgia in earning a TaxSlayer Bowl bid. Tech featured a top-10 rushing attack nationally and also led the country in yards per completion under Cook’s tutelage.

In 2014, Georgia Tech was 11-3 and finished as the No. 8 team in the country, claiming the Coastal Division title in the Atlantic Coast Conference and narrowly missing winning the league title, falling 35-32 to Florida State in the championship game. The Yellow Jackets defeated Mississippi State, 49-34, to win the Orange Bowl. That season, Cook tutored All-ACC signal caller Justin Thomas, who set the school’s single-season rushing record for quarterbacks with 1,086 yards, while also recording an impressive pass efficiency rating of 153.90. Tech’s backfield consisted of three career 1,000-yard rushers – Thomas, Zach Laskey and Sinyjn Day.

The ‘14 Tech squad led the nation in rushing offense with 4,789 yards (342.1 per game), both marks shattering the previous school records. Days (924) and Laskey (851) accounted for 1,775 of those yards as well as 18 rushing touchdowns (nine each). The Jackets also led the nation in third down conversion percentage (57.9%) and yards per completion (17.8) and led the ACC in 11 offensive categories.

In 2013, Cook saw the Georgia Tech offense put up huge numbers, ranking sixth nationally in rushing yards (299.3 per game), tied for fourth in third down percentage (51.4) and led the nation in yards per completion (18.4). Tech produced 48 rushing touchdowns, tying Oregon for the most nationally. The Jackets had 41 rushing plays of 20 yards or more, second only to Oregon (43). Cook tutored a pair of young quarterbacks – sophomore Vad Lee and redshirt freshman Thomas – who combined for 474 yards and 10 touchdowns. Senior B-back David Sims earned honorable mention All-ACC honors.

At GT, he coached five student-athletes that received all-Atlantic Coast Conference recognition, including quarterback Justin Thomas, who became the 39th player in NCAA Division I FBS history with 4,000 passing yards and 2,000 rushing yards in a career. Cook also helped the Jackets rank among the top 10 nationally in both rushing offense and passing yards per completion in each of his four seasons.

Prior to his second time in Atlanta, he spent four seasons (2009-12) as the co-offensive coordinator at Cal Poly (Pomona, Calif.). The Mustangs had a 9-3 record in his last season there and reached the second round of the FCS playoffs. It was Cal Poly’s first year as a member of the Big Sky Conference, with the Mustangs earning co-champion honors with a 7-1 mark in league play. Under Cook, who also coached the quarterbacks and fullbacks, the Mustangs ranked third nationally that season in the FCS in rushing offense (324.2 yards per game), seventh in scoring offense (36.7) and first in pass efficiency (175.7). In his four years in Pomona, the Mustangs were 26-19.

Cook spent four years (2005-08) as head coach at West Point Prep in Monroe, La., where his team compiled a 28-22-1 record, with six best teams in the country in 2006 (8-2) and 2008 (7-3). He was the defensive coordinator at West Point Prep in 2004 before being promoted to head coach.

His first “tour” at Georgia Tech came over the 2001-03 seasons, when he worked as a graduate assistant coach (under two different head coaches). In 2001, when Tech went 8-5 and played in the Seattle Bowl, Cook helped coach the Yellow Jacket defensive backs and special teams under George O’Leary; in 2002, he coached tight ends under Chan Gailey and helped Tech produce a 7-6 record and a Silicon Valley Classic appearance. In 2003, Cook worked with the safeties for a team that earned a berth in the Humanitarian Bowl.

Over the course of his 20-year coaching career, he has been a part of six bowl games, all with Georgia Tech (2001 Seattle, 2002 Silicon Valley, 2003 Humanitarian, 2013 Music City, 2015 Orange and 2016 TaxSlayer).

Cook lettered in both football and lacrosse at Ithaca College, where he was a starting strong safety for two Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championship teams (1996, 1998) along with earning all-conference honors as a defensiveman in lacrosse. He earned two degrees from Ithaca, his bachelor’s in health and physical education in 1998, graduating with magna cum laude honors, and his master’s in exercise science in 2000. He was a member of the Dean’s List all four years as an undergrad, and he had his first experience coaching while in grad school, coaching the wide receivers for the Bombers for the 1999 season. After earning his master’s, he was a defensive assistant coach for Lafayette (Pa.) College in the fall of 2000.

He was born on December 29, 1976 in Syracuse, N.Y., and graduated from C.W. Baker High School (Baldwinsville, N.Y.) where he lettered in football and lacrosse. His hobbies include skiing and most anything that has to do with the outdoors. He is married to the former Julia Bell, and the couple has two children, son Jackson (9) and daughter Reagan (7).
Heim, 41, came to Colorado from the University of Tulsa, where he was the Golden Hurricanes’ director of high school relations and recruiting for football, as he was named to the position in April 2018.

He spent the fall of 2017 as the assistant head football coach and recruiting coordinator at Richardson (Texas) High School, which followed five years (2013-17) on the football coaching staff at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark. He served as the school’s defensive coordinator and linebackers coach as well as head strength coach during his tenure at Hendrix.

Heim was an assistant coach at Jesuit College Prep in Dallas for the 2011 and 2012 seasons, coaching linebackers and special teams. Prior to that stint, he was a graduate assistant at SMU and Baylor and also spent four seasons at Virginia Military Institute as an assistant football coach (2003-07).

He was a four-year letterman at linebacker at Austin (Texas) College, where he was a team captain as a senior. Heim was a three-year all-conference performer for the Kangaroos as well as a two-time academic all-conference team member. Following his collegiate days, he played overseas in Austria in 2001 and Germany in 2002.

Heim earned his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Austin in 2000, and received his master’s degree in Education from Baylor in 2009 when he was coaching at Jesuit College Prep.

He was born October 11, 1977 in Dallas, Texas, and graduated from its Lake Highlands High School, where he lettered in football and wrestling. Hobbies include anything in the outdoors; he also fluent in German. He is married to the former Rachel McGinnis.

Dalmin Gibson is in his second year on the Colorado football staff, having returned to his alma mater in the summer of 2018 as a graduate assistant working with the offense.

Harris graduated with a double major in Anthropology and Sociology from Colorado in May 2013. Following graduation, he moved to Bakersfield, Calif., where he was working in the oil fields in the area for two years.

He was born May 11, 1991 in Littleton, Colo., and graduated from Chaparral High School in nearby Parker, Colo., where he lettered in football and basketball; he was a high school All-American as an offensive lineman and was also named first-team All-Colorado and All-State (5A) by both the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News. His hobbies include fishing and camping. He is married to the former Jessica Ermish, and the couple have one child, Kahlia (born last October 2018). A cousin, M.J. Flaum, was an offensive lineman at Nebraska, and a grandfather, John Boice, played for the Chicago Bears as a tight end/defensive end.

Cordae Hankton is in his first year on the Colorado football staff, having joined the program in January 2019 as a graduate assistant.

Hankton’s father and uncle were police officers, working on the New Orleans police force with the New Orleans police department. His parents, John and Cherise Hankton, ran the backstage staff for the New Orleans Jazz Fest.

Hankton graduated from Archbishop Rummel High School in New Orleans, where he lettered in football and basketball. His hobbies include jambalaya, gumbo and spaghetti; he also enjoys playing golf, spending time with his family and enjoying his three nephews. His older brother by some seven years, Cortez, is the receivers coach at the University of Georgia. (His first name is pronounced cor-day.)

Blaine Miller is in his first year on the Colorado football staff, having joined the program in January 2019 as a graduate assistant for the defense.

Prior to joining the Bulldogs’ staff, he served as the acting running backs coach at the University of Alabama-Birmingham in the fall of 2015. At UAB, he was responsible for recruiting and assisting the rebuilding of the football program,
as the program was terminated briefly following the 2014 season but revived shortly thereafter, but the damage had been done and UAB didn’t resume play until 2017. In all, he spent three seasons on the Blazers staff (2013-15), an offensive assistant for one year and both as a strength coach before the program was eliminated.

In the spring of 2015, Miller was a player personnel assistant and Mel Tucker’s recruiting assistant at Alabama. During his time in Tuscaloosa, he assisted with on-campus recruiting efforts.

A 2012 graduate of Grove City (Pa.) College, earning a bachelor’s degree in Biology and Exercise Science. He lettered at running back and was a three-time All-Conference performer and a two-time offensive MVP for the Wolverines. He is the school’s eighth all-time leading rusher (489 carries for 1,794 yards) and is fourth in rushing touchdowns (30). He also caught 126 passes for 1,302 yards, both of those numbers remain in the school’s top 10.

He was born January 12, 1990 in Lancaster, Pa., and graduated from nearby Donegal High School in Mt. Joy, where he lettered in football and wrestling in addition to playing baseball and running track. His hobbies include playing golf and spending time with family (two nieces and nephew).

TESSA AKERS
Recruiting Assistant

Tessa Akers is in her first year on the University of Colorado staff as a football recruiting assistant, joining the staff on February 11, 2019.

Akers, 25, came to Colorado from her alma mater, Georgia Southern, where she had worked since January 2018 as an administrative and recruiting assistant in the football office, providing administrative and secretarial support to head coach Chad Lunsford. She had spent the previous five months (during the 2017 season) as an intern in GSU’s Football Alumni Association, where one of her main responsibilities was developing and overseeing the renewal membership drive.

She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Sports Management in 2017 from Georgia Southern, where as an undergraduate she worked as a student assistant in the football office as well as a recruiting intern in the Eagles’ football operations department.

Akers was born in Charleston S.C., and graduated from its Wando High School, where she lettered in basketball. She spent two summers as the activity coordinator at the Point Pleasant Resort on the island of St. Thomas.

MATT PICK
Recruiting Assistant

Matt Pick is in his first year on the University of Colorado staff as a football recruiting assistant, joining the staff on May 20, 2019. His primary duties are assisting the defensive staff in all phases of recruiting.

Pick, 23, came to Colorado from Colorado State, where he was a student assistant in football recruiting office. His responsibilities included aiding the coaching staff in most areas of the recruiting. He graduated from CSU in 2018 with a degree in Business Management.

He was born September 5, 1995 in Albuquerque, N.M., and graduated from the Albuquerque Academy where he lettered in baseball (third baseman). His hobbies include playing golf.

JUSTIN GEYER
Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach

Justin Geyer is in his fourth year as an assistant strength and conditioning coach, joining the department on April 1, 2016. He works primarily with Colorado’s football program.

Geyer, 32, came to Colorado from Arkansas State University, where he spent the previous year-and-a-half as the Red Wolves assistant director of strength and conditioning. Previously, he was the assistant football strength and conditioning coach at the University of Maryland from 2013-15. He began his career in the field as a volunteer coach at the University of Mississippi in 2012.

He graduated from the College of Mount St. Joseph in 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in Athletic Training. He earned three letters playing linebacker and safety, starting for two seasons for the Lions. He was named to the Academic All-Heartland Conference team. He earned his Master’s degree in Exercise Science from Springfield College in 2013.

He was born May 20, 1987 in Hamilton, Ohio, and graduated from Badin High School there, where he lettered in football. His hobbies include weightlifting and playing with his dog.

D.D. GOODSON
Assistant Strength & Conditioning Coach

D.D. Goodson is in his first year as an assistant strength and conditioning coach, joining the department on March 18, 2019. He works specifically with Colorado’s football program.

Goodson, 26, returned to his alma mater from the University of Hawaii, where he had been working as a graduate assistant in the Rainbow Warriors athletic department.

He earned four letters for the Buffaloes from 2011-14, starting out as a true freshman on defense in the secondary, playing mostly the nickel position. He switched to offense his sophomore season, and eventually found a home at receiver, playing mostly in the slot. He finished his CU career with 60 receptions for 688 yards; those were good for 36th all-time on CU’s receptions list and 44th on the receiving yards list at the time of his graduation.

As a senior, he won the Iron Buffalo Award for the wide receivers for his spring work in the weight room. As a junior, when he moved to receiver from back in the spring, he was named the recipient of the Fred Casotti Award as the most improved offensive back. He earned honorable mention Pac-12 All-Academic Team honors his sophomore through senior years.

He then played professionally overseas, as a running back and receiver for the Příbram Bobcats (Prague, Czech Republic) for one season (2015-16). He returned to the United States and worked as a treatment counselor for a year-and-a-half at Savio House in Denver. During this time is when he decided to become a strength and conditioning coach and worked as intern under CU’s Steve Englehart for the men’s basketball team for six months.

Goodson then served as a graduate assistant strength and conditioning
Teddy O’Connor is in his first year as an assistant strength and conditioning coach, joining the department on March 18, 2019. He works exclusively with Colorado’s football program.

O’Connor, 29, came to CU from the University of Louisville, where he had spent the better part of three months working as a volunteer with the football strength and conditioning program under Coach Ryan Davis. When the opportunity to join the Buffaloes staff opened up, he made the move out west.

He previously had spent five seasons on the University of Louisville’s football staff as an assistant strength and conditioning coach as well as a sport science coordinator. While assisting with the standard strength and conditioning duties with the football program, in the area of sports science he oversaw the Catapult GPS units, which is used to track data to help further the student-athlete’s performance.

While at Louisville, O’Connor worked with Lamar Jackson, the 2016 Heisman Trophy winner, and 16 other National Football League draft picks. While with the Cardinals, he was a staff member for four consecutive bowl game appearances: the 2014 Belk, 2015 Music City, 2016 Florida Citrus and 2017 Gator/TaxiSaver games.

Prior to his time at Louisville, he had a one-year stint at Western Kentucky University, working directly as an assistant with the football team while also coordinating all the needs as the head strength and conditioning coach for the men’s and women’s tennis teams.

He started his professional career at Boston College, where he served as a strength and conditioning intern for three years. He worked primarily with the Eagles’ Olympic sport teams in his first year there (2011-12) before joining the football staff for the 2012 season and the 2013 spring practices.

O’Connor earned his bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology and Exercise Science from the University of New Hampshire in 2012, and completed his Master’s in Sport Administration from the University of Louisville in 2015. He has his CSCS certification from the NSCA and his SCCC certification from the CSCCa; he is also certified in CPR/AED.

He was born in Salem, Mass., and graduated from Newburyport (Mass.) High School, where he lettered in football and hockey (defensive man). After graduating from high school, he served as a volunteer assistant strength and conditioning coach at his alma mater for four years (2008-11). His hobbies include anything outdoors, working out, skiing, fishing, golf and hockey. He is married to the former Kelsey Todesca, and the couple has a son, Colin (born this past June).
Jean Onaga is in her 34th year with the Colorado football program as the administrative assistant to the assistant coaches, handling all secretarial duties for both the offensive and defensive coordinators and each staff. She also assists the director of football operations and director of recruiting in administrative duties.

Onaga, who is currently the third-longest tenured employee in all of the athletic department, also coordinates all football office volunteers regarding security for spring and fall practices. She facilitates program activities and events including all pro scout visits year-round and the school’s annual pro timing day.

For her years of service, Jean was recognized as an honorary member of the Alumni C Club by the Board of Directors during CU-Missouri game on November 3, 2007.

Originally from Honolulu, Hawaii, Jean and her husband Loren moved to Boulder in 1985. She graduated from McKinley High School and graduated from Kapiolani Community College with a degree in business.

Laura Anderson is in her sixth year as a member of the University of Colorado athletic staff, having first joined the program in August 2014 as the department’s first-ever dietitian. She was promoted to the associate athletic director for performance nutrition on August 1, 2018.

Anderson, 46, came to CU from the 10th Group Special Forces in Colorado Springs, where she was the performance dietitian for the Tactical Human Optimization, Rapid Rehabilitation & Recovery Program for just under four years (November 2010-August 2014). Among her many responsibilities was to provide individual and group performance nutrition counseling to enhance the health and performance of the Active Duty Special Forces tactical athlete, assisting with menu development, and education material for both food service staff and customers and directing nutritional care activities for active duty soldiers, including those with complex medical and nutritional needs. In 2012, she received the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service 10th Special Forces.

She previously has spent nearly three years (January 2008- November 2010) as a sport dietitian with the United States Olympic Committee, working with a wide diversity of male and female athletes for both winter and summer sports. Her duties ranged from performing assimilated tests on the athletes to conducting educational seminars to even include the coaching staffs. She was also the official "team baker" for the men’s and women's alpine ski teams at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.

Anderson also has worked in various other positions along the Colorado Front Range as a program dietitian, a nutrition services dietitian and as a dietitian/strength and conditioning specialist.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in Health and Exercise Science from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse in 2001, and received her master’s degree in Interdisciplinary Health and Exercise Science and Nutrition from Colorado State University in 2004. She also performed two internships (Exercise Physiology at St. Andrews War Memorial Hospital in Brisbane, Australia, in 2001; Dietetic at James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, Fla., in 2005).

A registered dietitian with the American Dietetic Association, she is also board certified as a specialist in sports nutrition, by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) as a health and fitness instructor and by ISAK (International Society for Advancement in Kinanthropometry); she is also certified in CPR and first aid.

She is a member of the American Dietetic Association and the Colorado Dietetic Association, and an affiliate with SCAN (Sports, Cardiovascular and Wellness Nutrition), Weight Management and CPSDA (College, Professional, Sports Dietitian Association).

Laura Anderson is the official “team baker” for the men’s and women’s alpine ski teams and passing tournament camp, and still assists with registration for various football camps.

She joined the football staff in January 1986 and is the longest continuous employee in the football department; only three current employees have been associated with the entire athletic department longer than her. She has worked under seven CU head coaches: Bill McCartney, Rick Neuheisel, Gary Barnett, Dan Hawkins, Jon Embree, Mike MacIntyre and now Mel Tucker.

For her years of service, Jean was recognized as an honorary member of the Alumni C Club by the Board of Directors during CU-Missouri game on November 3, 2007.

Originally from Honolulu, Hawaii, Jean and her husband Loren moved to Boulder in 1985. She graduated from McKinley High School and graduated from Kapiolani Community College with a degree in business.

Lance Carl, who participated in one of the key plays on the football field as a player for the University of Colorado in the mid-1980s, returned to his alma mater for the fourth time in his career when he was named to a newly created position, associate athletic director for business development on November 5, 2013.

Carl, 54 is also the sports supervisor for the football program, as he has daily interactions with head coach Mel Tucker, the assistant coaches, support personnel and the student-athletes. He is also CU’s liaison to the National Football League and its member teams with scouts and personnel staff, having worked as a scout in the late 1990s himself. In addition, he has long been active and on the board of directors with Buffs4Life, an organization of former CU athletes that help former Buffs in need.

He is completing his fifth year in the largely external role which encompasses business development, community partnerships and serves as the coordinator for non-game day events. His duties include working to build strategic community partnerships, improve the department’s engagement with local community entities and work to attract non-game day event business to CU’s athletic facilities. He has developed over two dozen key partnerships to date, as he is working to change the image and perception about athletics and its interactions in the business world. He also was the point-person working with AEG Rocky Mountain to bring the first concerts to Folsom Field in 15 years when Dead & Company played the stadium in July 2016 (and who has since returned twice for additional shows).

He rejoined the CU staff after spending the last six years with the Colorado Department of Higher Education, where he was a director for student motivational outreach. He was a direct liaison to all middle and high schools throughout the state, as well as for parents and administrators. He developed the Umbrella of Success motivational presentation and delivered that message to 160,000 students, parents and administrators during that time.

As a junior split end in 1986, he led the team in receiving with nine catches for 171 yards and two touchdowns, as with the Buffaloes in their second year of running the wishbone offense under coach Bill McCartney, Colorado didn’t throw the ball very often.

But one of those scores was as big as they come, a 52-yard reception from O.C. Oliver on a perfectly executed halfback option that answered a Nebraska touchdown put CU back up by two scores (17-7) on the first play of the fourth quarter. That helped keep the third-ranked Huskers at an arm’s length and the Buffaloes went on to win, 20-10, in a game referred to as “the turning point” for the school under McCartney.

He graduated from CU in 1991 with a Bachelor’s of Arts degree in Sociology; he had first returned to CU to finish his degree after signing as a free agent with the Washington Redskins and returning to his native Iowa.

Carl then came back to CU as a graduate assistant coach under Rick Neuheisel for the 1996 season. He also spent four years as a regional scout for the Philadelphia Eagles of the National Football League.
He was born September 13, 1965 in Burlington, Iowa, and graduated from Fort Madison (Iowa) High School, where he was a four-sport letterman (12 letters total) in football, basketball, baseball and track. His hobbies include coaching his kid’s sports teams, golf, hiking and mountain biking; he was an assistant coach of the North Boulder Wildcats team that reached the Little League World Series in 2015. He is married to the former Jennifer Mysonhimer, also a CU graduate; she worked as a teaching assistant on campus and in the Herbst Academic Center when Carl was a graduate assistant. The couple has three children, sons Savoy (22) and Jackson (17) and daughter Alana (10).

CHRIS DeCARLO
Assistant Athletic Trainer

Chris DeCarlo is in his fourth year as an assistant athletic trainer at Colorado, as he was hired on August 15, 2016. He works primarily with CU’s football and women’s golf programs. He joined CU from the National Football League’s Seattle Seahawks, where he had worked as a seasonal athletic trainer for the 2014 and 2015 seasons, and was prepared to do the same when hired by CU. The Seahawks were the NFC West champions in 2014, the club had a 22-10 record when he was on their staff and was a part of Super Bowl XLIX.

DeCarlo earned his bachelor’s degree in Athletic Training in 2010 from Kean (N.J.) University, where he also lettered four years in lacrosse. He earned his master’s degree in Kinesiology from Auburn University in 2014. While at Auburn from 2011-14, he served as a graduate assistant athletic trainer for the SEC champion football team which played in the last BCS National Championship game against Florida State. Prior to enrolling in graduate school, he worked one fall (2010) as an assistant athletic trainer at Newberry (S.C.) College.

He was born March 26, 1987 in Sandy, Utah, and graduated from Juan Diego Catholic High School (Draper, Utah), where he participated in football and lacrosse. His hobbies include lacrosse, snowboarding, anything outdoors and listening to good music.

JASON DePAAEPE
Senior Associate AD/Internal Operations

JASON DePAAEPE
Senior Associate AD/Internal Operations

Jason DePaepe is in his second year as the senior associate athletic director for internal operations, having been promoted to the position on August 1, 2018. He is in his 20th year overall at the University of Colorado.

DePaepe, 45, has served over four years (2013-18) as the associate athletic director for facilities and game day operations, prior to his most recent promotion in February 2018, as he coordinated game day management and operations, specifically for football and CU’s other outside sport programs, were added to his responsibilities in September 2014. He was the recipient of an “Honorary C” award in 2017 for his dedication to the department.

In addition to overseeing all staff members who coordinate the facility and maintenance needs for Folsom Field, the Dal Ward Athletic Center, the Champions Center, Balch Fieldhouse, Prentup Field, Potts Field, the Indoor Practice Facility (IPF), Kittredge Lacrosse Field, and the South Campus Tennis Facility, he now oversees human resources and the stadium’s concessionaire, Levy.

DePaepe had worked as the athletic turf manager for 12 years prior to his first promotion, responsible for all maintenance, renovation, upkeep and painting and design of Folsom Field’s natural grass surface as well as the athletic practice fields located just north of Boulder Creek and Prentup Field, home to CU’s women’s soccer team. He originally joined CU in June 2000 as an assistant turf manager and was promoted to the head position in February 2001. He was considered by many to be one of the best in his field, and he still oversees all of CU’s field operations.

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) honored DePaepe and his staff in January 2003, when the organization recognized Folsom Field’s turf with the Football Field of the Year Award for the college/university division. STMA has over 2,400 members, so the award, especially in just the fourth season since Folsom returned to natural grass, was quite an honor. In 2008, he oversaw the complex replacement of SportGrass on the Folsom Field floor with a natural Kentucky blue grass.

CHRISTOPHER DOUNTAS
Director of Football Equipment

Christopher Dountas is in his first year as the director of football equipment, as he joined the department on July 22, 2019.

Dountas, 46, came to Colorado from Stanford University, where he was assistant athletic director and equipment manager since 2016, overseeing the day-to-day equipment operation for all 36 Cardinal varsity sport programs. He was a member of the athletic department’s executive staff for one of the nation’s most successful athletic programs and perennial Learfield Director’s Cup champions. He was responsible for maintaining the school’s overall contract with Nike and worked daily with Stanford’s equipment vendors and suppliers.

Dountas moved west from the University of Pittsburgh, where he had spent 10 years as the Panthers’ equipment operations department. He was born July 31, 1965 in Burlington, Iowa, and graduated from Iowa (Iowa) West, where he lettered in baseball and basketball. His hobbies include golf and basketball. He is married to the former Kristen Sorensen, one-time CU’s director of special events, and the couple has two daughters, Brielle (6) and Evelyn (4).
John Graves
Ralphie Program Manager

John Graves is in his fifth year as the Ralphie Live Mascot Program Manager, having assumed the position in July 2015. He was promoted from the assistant director position which he had held since April 2010.

Graves, 32, is more than familiar with the program, as he served as a Ralphie Handler for his sophomore through senior years (2007-09); he won the Handlers’ “Rookie of the Year” Award in 2007. He also has done extensive historical research on the Ralphie Program dating back to its inception in 1967.

He holds Humane Handling certifications for both cattle and horses, as well as a Humane Livestock Transportation certification. He also has been working with the National Bison Association to develop similar standards for buffalo (bison). He also holds an ISSA Strength and Conditioning Certification – Level 2, is a USA Weightlifting Sports Performance Coach - Level 1, and is certified in First Aid, AED and CPR. Graves also does extensive work with both the National Bison Association and Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in Science in Business Administration from CU in December 2009, and his master’s in Agriculture from Colorado State University in May 2016.

He was born January 6, 1987 in Salisbury, Md., and graduated from Aurora (Colo.) Grandview High School where he lettered in football, hockey and lacrosse. His hobbies include camping, mountain hiking and running. He is married to the former Jennifer Gray, who also works at the university as the financial aid communications coordinator.

Jamie Guy
Director of Sports Video

Jamie Guy is in his 16th year as CU’s director of sports video and his 19th year overall on the Colorado staff, as he joined the department in August 2001. He was promoted to his current position in the fall of 2004 after working just over three years as the assistant director.

Guy, 44, came to CU from the Chicago Enforcers of the now-defunct XFL, where he worked the lone season of the league’s existence.

In CU’s first year in the Pac-12 Conference (2011-12), he was named the Pac-12 Video Coordinator of the Year as selected by a majority vote of his peers. He was twice selected as the video coordinator of the year in the Big 12 Conference, first in 2005-06 and again in 2009-10. The awards are coordinated and voted by members of the Collegiate Sports Video Association; members of each conference select the winner for their respective leagues, and the recipients are placed on the national ballot for the overall CSVA award, the Bob Maty National Video Coordinator of the Year.

As talented as there is in the profession, Guy has coordinated the production of several video shorts showcasing in particular, the CU football program. Along with his former assistant John Stelson, the two were been honored twice with Heartland Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATA) Emmy awards, first in 2014 for their work called “Seasons,” the story of a dream and the lifetime experience of being a Colorado Buffalo, and then again for 2015 for the series entitled, "Forward." The duo was also nominated in 2015 for their “Forever” video, his personal favorite because of the time, execution and passion that went into creating it (an all-encompassing look at what it means to be a Colorado Buffalo, and then again for 2015 for the series entitled, "Forward.")

Jasper previously served as an adjunct instructor at Old Dominion University in the Darden College of Education. He simultaneously served as the director of Project Launch through the Virginia Modeling Analysis Simulation Center. Project Launch is a program designed to assist at-risk students in their pursuit of post-secondary education enrollment and job acquisition while enrolled as a junior or senior in high school.

Jasper graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) with a bachelor’s degree in management and a minor in psychology. While pursuing his bachelor’s degree, he was a scholarship student-athlete (football) and three-time letterman. He then attended Old Dominion as a graduate student-athlete and lettered an additional year in football. Jasper graduated from there with a Master’s of Science in Education.

He is an active member in the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A), National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS), National Academic Advising Association (NACADA), and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Education from Old Dominion.

He was born in Richmond, Va., and graduated from Dunwoody High School in Atlanta, Ga., where he lettered in football, basketball, track and field and in band (saxophone). (first name is pronounced day-ron)
KRIS LIVINGSTON
Senior Associate AD/Student Success

Kris Livingston is in her 23rd year at the University of Colorado, her first as a senior associate athletic director for student success, promoted to the position on August 1, 2018; she held the similar position as an associate AD since 2014 after being promoted to an assistant athletic director in 2010.

Included in her role is overseeing all of CU’s academic support services for her 12th year, as well as CU’s leadership and career development and diversity and inclusion programs. Located in the Herbst Academic Center, her area provides year-round academic support to all of CU’s approximately 350 student-athletes; she was an assistant director for the unit until being named its director on May 24, 2007. She also in the past performed sports administrator duties for CU’s soccer and skiing programs.

Former football coach Dan Hawkins credited her organization and philosophy about academics as one of the strongest factors for the football team’s back-to-back record years for grade point average for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years. And under the three head coaches that followed Hawkins, football has continued to set record GPA figures and graduation rates, as have several others among CU’s 17 intercollegiate programs and the entire athletic program overall.

She joined the CU staff in May 1997, hired by then-women’s basketball coach Ceal Barr, to create the program’s first-ever Director of Basketball Operations. She spent eight seasons in that position until Barry’s retirement from coaching in March of 2005.

Livingston came to Boulder from Littleton, Colo., where she was a senior consultant at USA Group Noel-Levitz, an educational consulting firm that is hired by colleges to help recruit and retain students. Prior to that, Livingston spent eight years at Iowa State University as an assistant women’s basketball coach (1984-89), admissions counselor (1989-91) and telecounseling coordinator (1991-92).

She earned her bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) in May 1983, where she was a four-year letterwinner on Miami’s women’s basketball team and earned first-team All-Mid-American Conference and first-team Academic All-MAC honors. In August 1997, she was inducted into Miami’s Hall of Fame, only the second women’s basketball player to be so honored.

Livingston earned her master’s degree in Sport and Exercise Science with an emphasis in Sport Administration from the University of Northern Colorado in August 2009.

A native of Toledo, Ohio, she graduated from Lake High School in Millbury, Ohio, in 1979. A three-sport athlete, she was an all-conference member of her high school Hall of Fame in 1983. She is married to Dr. Kelly Causey. In 2013, she was awarded the “Honorary C” for her longtime dedication to the department, in particular, the student-athlete.

RYAN NEWMAN
Director of Athletic Grounds

Eric Pelloni is in his 13th year as the assistant director of BuffVision, although he has been involved in CU Athletics for the better part of 18 years. He was hired full-time on August 1, 2006 after working on a contractual basis since August 2001.

Pelloni, 43, assists with the video packages for CU’s video display boards and has been on the BuffVision game day crew for 16 seasons. Pelloni also helps coordinate streaming and technical issues between CU Athletics and Pac-12 Enterprises.

When CU overhauled its official athletic website, CUBuffs.com, in 2003, Pelloni was hired on a part-time basis to create video content and coordinate streaming live events. He has created the majority of the graphics work and assisted in the designing of the website, and has also designed several media guide covers.

Pelloni was also the associate producer of “The Buffalo Stampede” coaches show which aired weekly on FSN Rocky Mountain until ending with Colorado’s transition over to the Pac-12 Networks agreement. In 2016, he won a Telly Award for his production work for the 2015 Pac-12 Conference’s women’s golf championship that was held at Boulder Country Club.

Prior to his full-time appointment at CU, Pelloni worked as a freelance video editor/graphic artist in the Denver area, creating video content for both broadcast and non-broadcast applications for a number of clients including Qwest Communications, Coors, XCEL Energy and the United Way of New York City.

He graduated from Metropolitan State College of Denver in 1998, majoring in Technical Communication with a minor in Speech Communication. He taught as an adjunct professor in his technical Communications department at Metro State for the 2003-04 school year.

He was born November 21, 1972 in Detroit, Mich., and graduated from Broomfield (Colo.) High School, where he lettered in golf, which remains one of his favorite hobbies. He is married to the former Gabbie Perkins, who is CU’s Assistant Athletic Director for Olympic Sports Operations; the couple has a son, E.J. (Edwin James, 4) a daughter (Sophia, 2).

MEDFORD MOORER
Associate Director/Academics

Medford Moorer is in his ninth year as an associate director and academic coordinator in the Herbst Academic Center, having joined the athletic department staff on August 1, 2011 from across campus, where he had been working in administration as the graduate coordinator in the Civil Engineering department for the previous five years.

His main sport responsibilities are with the football (offensive players and specialists) and the women’s tennis teams, as well as heading up the department’s diversity and inclusion efforts.

Prior to returning to his alma mater in 2006, Moorer, 38, worked one year at Texas A&M as an assistant in academics. That followed two years as a teacher for a charter school in metro Denver, his first full-time position after he completed his college football career for the Buffaloes.

He graduated from CU with a degree in Sociology in August 2003. As a junior, he was the recipient of the Clancy A. Herbst Student-Athlete Achievement Award, presented to the Buff who overcame personal, academic and/or emotional difficulties to succeed academically while participating in athletics.

He was a four-year letterman in football at Colorado, leading the team in tackles with 111 his senior year in 2003, when he earned second-team All-Big 12 Conference honors from the league coaches. He won three postseason team awards that year, the Hang Tough Award (overcoming the most adversity); the Dave Jones Award (outstanding defensive player); and the Buffalo Heart Award (selected by “the fans behind the bench”).

In the post season, he played in the Hula Bowl. As a sophomore, he had a big play in CU’s 39-37 win over Texas in the Big 12 Championship game, returning an interception 64 yards for a touchdown that gave CU a 29-10 lead late in the first half. His 256 career tackles are still the 27th most in school history.

He was born November 28, 1980 in Los Angeles, and graduated from the city’s Locke High School, where was an All-City and All-League performer in football and also lettered in basketball and track. He is married to the former Mandy (Ament), and the couple has two children, son Marshall (8) and daughter Malia Ann (6).

ERIC PELLONI
Assistant Director/BuffVision

Eric Pelloni is in his 14th year as the assistant director of BuffVision, although he has been involved in CU Athletics for the better part of 19 years. He was hired full-time on August 1, 2006 after working on a contractual basis since August 2001.

Pelloni, 46, assists with the video packages for CU’s video display boards and has been on the BuffVision game day crew for 16 seasons. Pelloni also helps coordinate streaming and technical issues between CU Athletics and Pac-12 Enterprises.

When CU overhauled its official athletic website, CUBuffs.com, in 2003, Pelloni was hired on a part-time basis to create video content and coordinate streaming live events. He has created the majority of the graphics work and assisted in the designing of the website, and has also designed several media guide covers.

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Prior to his full-time appointment at CU, Pelloni worked as a freelance video editor/graphic artist in the Denver area, creating video content for both broadcast and non-broadcast applications for a number of clients including Qwest Communications, Coors, XCEL Energy and the United Way of New York City.

He graduated from Metropolitan State College of Denver in 1998, majoring in Technical Communication with a minor in Speech Communication. He taught as an adjunct professor in his technical communications department at Metro State for the 2003-04 school year.

He was born November 21, 1972 in Detroit, Mich., and graduated from Broomfield (Colo.) High School, where he lettered in golf, which remains one of his favorite hobbies. He is married to the former Gabbie Perkins, who is CU’s Assistant Athletic Director for Olympic Sports Operations; the couple has a son, E.J. (Edwin James, 4) a daughter (Sophia, 2).
DAVID PLATI
Associate AD/Sports Information

David Plati is in his 36th year as the athletic department’s director of sports information, and his 42nd year overall in CU’s Sports Information Office. He was promoted to assistant athletic director for media relations on July 1, 1988, and attained associate athletic director status in August 2005. He also serves as the department’s historian.

Plati, 59, was named the 13th full-time sports information director in CU history on July 24, 1984, after serving for three years as the assistant SID. The youngest SID in the nation at the time of his hiring, he previously worked as a student assistant and statistician after coming to CU as a freshman in 1978. Only six people have served in the role since 1952, with Plati’s tenure in the position the longest in school annals; he was recognized in 2009 with the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Quarter Century Service award.

In June of 2019, he was inducted into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame, the fourth Buffalo SID to be honored as he joined Fred Casotti (inducted in 1996), Mike Moran (2002) and Steve Hatchell (2018).

Overall, only three others have been employed full-time by CU athletics longer than Plati, who was hired full-time on Jan. 9, 1983: track coach Frank Potts (41 years), athletic director/baseball coach Harry Carlson (38 years) and associate AD, business and ticket manager Jon Burianek (38 years). His primary responsibilities are with the football, skiing and men’s golf programs, though he oversees the sports information efforts for all sports, and at one time or another has personally handled nine sports during his CU career. He has easily worked or covered over 2,200 CU events: 465 football games including a string of 410 in a row that ended in 2017 due to a minor health issue, at the time the second-longest active streak by any SID in the nation.

He has coordinated numerous successful promotional campaigns and public relations programs for student-athletes and coaches. Plati has written two books on CU football, the first about the school’s 1990 national championship, and the second published in 2008, Colorado Football Vault, a coffee table style book with an awesome collection of photographs and reproduced keepakes.

In addition, almost 100 of his former student assistants have gone on to work full-time in sports information or media relations for a college or professional team.

The Football Writers Association of America has recognized CU’s sports information office nine times during his tenure, three times for an outstanding press box operation (1987, 1992, 1997; schools were eligible only every five years), and now six times with the FWAA’s Super 11 award (2010, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018) for all-encompassing efforts with the nation’s football media. At the 2019 FWAA Award Breakfast in San Jose, Plati was presented with the organization’s Lifetime Achievement Award, just the sixth person in the nation to be honored with the relatively young award. The organization also named him as one of two SID’s nationally to its 22-member “Access/Press Relations Committee” to oversee press relations with FBS conferences ahead of the 2019 season.

Plati is also an adjunct instructor in CU’s College of Media, Communication and Information (CMCI), teaching a sports media relations class for the last 15-16-17-18 seasons), eight Rose and two Fiesta bowls for a grand total of 43 postseason bowl games when including CU’s 19.

He has worked as the media relations liaison for the Bolder Boulder 10K since 1987, and also served as the media relations assistant for the Colorado Open Golf Tournament for 12 years (1980-91). He was the media coordinator for the 1985, 1989 and 1996 NCAA West Regionals, and was the local media coordinator and NCAA liaison for the 1990 Final Four, all in Denver.

He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in public relations, along with a minor in geography, from CU in December 1982. He was a member of the journalism student council and wrote for The Campus Press.

Born April 19, 1960 in New Rochelle, N.Y., Plati graduated from Woodlands High School (Hartsdale, N.Y.) in 1978, where he lettered in football and golf (and was also the school’s SID his senior year). In 1984, he was awarded an “Honorary C” for his service to Colorado athletics. An avid golfer, he won the 2005 Rocky Mountain Golf Writers Association fourth annual tournament.

One of his proudest moments in his CU career came when late golf coach Mark Simpson asked him to present him for induction at Simpson’s Golf Coaches Hall of Fame induction ceremony in January, 2005. He is also an avid concert goer, having attended some 380-plus in his lifetime (led by 29 Jimmy Buffett performances), and one of his hobbies is memorizing song lyrics. His younger brother (Mark, a top music engineer) was nominated for two Grammy Awards with David Bowie in 1998 (he was a guitarist in Bowie’s band for five years), and also engineered the Song-of-the-Year for 1997 (Shawn Colvin’s “Sunny Came Home”).

KEVIN PROCHASKA
Associate Director/Compliance

Kevin Prochaska is in his eighth year as the associate director of compliance with the University of Colorado Athletic Department. In his duties he is responsible for the compliance needs of football as well as assisting with all other sports.

Prior to arriving at Colorado, he spent two years (2010-12) as the director of compliance and CHAMPS life skills at Miami (Ohio) University. Prochaska was also an adjunct professor at Miami, teaching a course for freshmen student-athletes.

Prochaska earned his bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin at Platteville in 2003. He earned his J.D. degree (juris doctor) from Marquette University Law School in 2005. While at Marquette, he served as a compliance intern in the athletic department for the 2008-09 school year, and served in a similar role at Northern Illinois University in 2009 before graduating. He accepted a position as a compliance coordinator at Ohio State University for the 2009-10 academic year.

He was born in Prairie du Chien, Wis., and graduated from Prairie du Chien High School. In 1998, he earned his degree in business administration with a focus in finance. His hobbies include attending sporting events and concerts as well as traveling and playing golf. Prochaska and his wife, Jessica, are the parents of a daughter, Avery, and a son, Thomas.
MIGUEL RUEDA
Senior Associate AD/Health & Performance

Miguel Rueda is in 14th year in the CU athletic department, his second as the senior associate athletic director for health and performance; he had been the associate AD over the same area since being promoted to the position in February 2015. Also the
head athletic trainer, he previously had served nine-plus years solely in that role after he was hired on August 1, 2006, just days ahead of football camp.

In his role, he oversees the entire training staff as well as serves as the school’s liaison with the CU Sports Medicine and Performance Center, housed in the athletic department’s Champions Center. He also oversees the strength and conditioning and sports nutrition areas as well as CU’s sports psychologist and works closely with campus on research initiatives.

Rueda, 47, is the second-longest tenured trainer in CU’s athletic history now in his 13th year in that capacity, behind only a 14-year run by Dave Burton, who held the position from 1985-99; one other had served in the role for eight years, and three others for seven.

He is also CU’s institutional representative for the Pac-12’s student health conference, and in that role, he organizes the annual meeting for all sports medicine officials from each league school.

He came to CU from Fresno State University, where he has been the Director of Sports Medicine since February 2001. At FSU, his primary responsibilities were the care and prevention of injuries for the football program and overseeing all areas of the Fresno State Sports Medicine Program. He has similar duties at Colorado, as he coordinates the needs and staffing for CU’s 16 intercollegiate varsity programs.

With CU’s move to the Pac-12 Conference, he was named the Education Director for the Pac-12 annual sports medicine meeting, a role he performed in the 2011-12 academic year and will continue to serve in for at least the 2012-13 year as well.

Ironically, his first football game as Fresno State’s head trainer was in Boulder, as the Bulldogs played the Buffaloes in the Jim Thorpe Association Classic on August 26, 2001; FSU won the game, 24-22, and went on to climb into the nation’s top 10, until getting knocked off by Boise State, then coached by CU’s future coach, Dan Hawkins.

Rueda previously had worked two years (1995-97) as a graduate assistant trainer for the Bulldogs while earning his master’s degree in exercise physiology.

He had rejoined the Fresno State staff from Towson University, where he served as an assistant athletic trainer from 1998 to 2001; he was the head trainer for football. Prior to Towson, Rueda spent time with the Miami Dolphins of the National Football League in 1997-98 and with Holy Cross in 1994-95. He also has extensive teaching experience, instructing classes ranging from sports medicine administration to basic athletic training courses over the past 10 years.

He received his undergraduate degree in athletic training from Boston University in 1994, and his master’s degree from Fresno State in 1997. Rueda is a member of the National Athletic Trainers Association, the College Athletic Trainers Society and has American Red Cross CPR and First Aid certification.

He was born November 17, 1971 in San Francisco, graduating from the city’s Jay Eugene McAteer High School where he lettered in cross country and track.

He and his wife, Andrea, have two sons, Gabriel and Christopher, and a daughter, Isabella.

CURTIS SNYDER
Assistant AD/Sports Information

Curtis Snyder is in his 21st year as a member of the University of Colorado athletic department, his second as an assistant athletic director in the sports information office, his third in the SID area, he was promoted to an assistant AD in August 2018. He had worked the previous three years as CU’s director of digital strategy after rejoining the Buffalo staff on December 1, 2008 after a five-and-a-half year absence. He shares the duties for football with the associate AD and once again heads up the SID responsibilities for CU’s ski team.

He spent the previous seven-plus years (2008-15) as the associate sports information director, in addition to managing special projects and digital media. He was the secondary sports information contact for football for six seasons (2009-14) and was the primary SID for CU’s renowned national champi-
onship ski program for eight years (2009-16). In August 2012, he was given the additional duties of overseeing overall strategy and execution of CUBuffs.com and social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), and still has some responsibilities in this area.

Snyder, 44, was the championship director for the 2016 and 2018 NCAA Ski Championships that CU hosted in Steamboat Springs, and has served as the webmaster for the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association (RMISA) since 2008. He was awarded an “Honorary C” in 2014 for his dedication to the department.

He returned to CU from Duke University, where he served as the director of Internet operations from 2008-09, managing the day-to-day operations of GoDuke.com and had various SID duties for the football and men’s basketball programs. He accompanied the basketball team during the postseason, during which time the Blue Devils captured two ACC Championships and a berth in the 2004 Final Four in San Antonio. He also traveled with the women’s basketball team to the 2006 Final Four in Boston.

He previously served four years as a student assistant in CU’s athletic media relations office (it’s then name) from 1994-98 and then five years as a full-time assistant SID and as well as the Internet managing editor from 1998-2003. As a student, Snyder worked with the volleyball and men’s basketball programs and was presented with the Athletic Director’s medal for service to the department.

In his first stint at CU, he worked at various times as the primary contact for the men’s basketball, volleyball and men’s and women’s tennis programs while also being named the Internet coordinator and eventually Internet managing editor, overseeing the official website, CUBuffs.com.

He also currently serves as a back-up statistician for the NBA’s Denver Nuggets and has worked with the AVP (professional beach volleyball tour). He has been an active member of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and served on the technology committee for five years (2007-11).

Born Sept. 2, 1975, in Boulder, he graduated from Boulder High School in 1994, where he was a fourth-generation student and lettered three times in basketball. His grandfather graduated from CU in 1929, his grandfather was named the Seaforth by Frank Porter to a decathlete and also to play basketball and football and his father, mother and sister all attended CU. He is married to the former Kari Carmann, a four-time letterwinner and two-time captain of the women’s basketball team at CU who was a sports anchor and reporter for Fox 31 (KDVR-TV) in Denver for several years. The couple resides in Erie and has three children, twins Lucy and Samuel (9) and Cooper (6).

DERIC SWANSON
Executive Director of BuffVision

Deric Swanson is in his 21st year as the executive director of BuffVision, coordinating all aspects of production involving the video display boards at Folsom Field and the CU Events Center, both upgraded earlier this decade to a near $10 million operation for both facilities combined. He is the only director the area has ever had since it was created in 1995.

Swanson, 45, is easily considered one of the best in his field and came to CU from the National Hockey League’s Colorado Avalanche, where he had worked for a brief time as the manager of game entertainment and video production. He had previously worked three-plus seasons with the Colorado Rockies Baseball Club, first as a stadium camera operator, and then as video production coordinator, including the 1998 Major League Baseball All-Star Game at Coors Field.

In 2003, BuffVision won the Golden Matrix Award for “Best Overall Video Display” in the University Division at the Information Display and Entertainment Association (IDEA) conference in Atlanta.

The following year, BuffVision was awarded two distinctions, one for the 2004 Aurora Awards, a Platinum Best of Show statue for In-Game Entertainment Graphics/Design, and a Telly Award for The Buffalo Stampede, CU’s coaches’ show. In 2006 and 2007, BuffVision won three more Telly Awards for its production, including two for the “Ralphie on Campus” institutional spot and another for The Buffalo Stampede. In 2013, BuffVision earned another Telly for a production involving CU’s men’s basketball team and the Navy Seals and in all have earned eight bronze Telly Awards. In 2019, it won its first silver Telly, again for the Buffalo Stampede and in particular for its season finale.

He is a 1996 graduate of Colorado State University, earning his bachelor’s degree in technical journalism and broadcasting. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and was recognized as CSU’s outstanding graduate in journalism.

He was born May 24, 1974 in Oakland, Calif., and attended two high schools. His father was stationed in the Azores, Portugal, and he spent two
years at Lajes High School, where he lettered in football, soccer, volleyball and basketball. After moving to Colorado, he graduated from Liberty High School in Colorado Springs, where he lettered in football. He played volleyball on CSU’s club team for three years. His hobbies include hiking and biking; he has now competed in 23 Ironman triathlons (through August 2019); his personal best was a time of 11 hours and 29 minutes in Tempe, Ariz., in 2009.

He is the father of two sons, Gavin (11) and Dane (8). He was the recipient of an “Honorary C” award in 2014 for his dedication to the department.

CEAL BARRY
Deputy Athletic Director/SWA

Ceal Barry is in her second year as CU’s Deputy Athletic Director, the first in the school’s history, as she was named to the position on August 1, 2018. She is also in her 14th year as the department’s senior woman’s administrator at Kentuckiana, commonly known as SWA.

In her 37th year overall at CU, Barry has served as the senior associate athletic director for internal operations for five years, having assumed that role in the spring of 2014. In her current role, she oversees all sports administrators (of which she is the one for women’s basketball) and special projects, in addition to serving as assistant to CU’s Office of Inclusion, Equity and Compliance (OIEC). She is also in her third year as a member of the NCAA’s Division Women’s Basketball Committee.

Barry, 63, CU’s legendary women’s basketball coach for 22 seasons, was honored for her accomplishments in the sport on June 9, 2018, when she was officially inducted into Colorado’s Basketball Hall of Fame.

She served as interim athletic director for a little over two months prior to George being named to the position, assuming that role on June 3, 2013.

Only four others have been employed full-time by CU athletics longer than Barry: track coach Frank Potts (41 years), athletic director/baseball coach Harry Carlson (39), athletic director/baseball coach Tony Sanchez (36) and associate AD/business and ticket manager Jon Burianek (both 38 years) and current associate AD/sports information David Plati (also in his 36th year, but started three months earlier). And as far as coaching is concerned, only Potts, Les Fowler (golf, 29), Mark Simpson (golf, 29), Richard Rokos (skiing, 29) Frank Prentup (baseball, 24) and Dick Gray (tennis, 23) and have logged more seasons as a head coach than Barry at Colorado.

Barry began the administrative chapter of her illustrious career as the associate athletic director for student services on April 1, 2001, just one month after completing her storied 22-year coaching career (1983-05). Barry retired having coached the most games, matches or tournaments (609) and the sixth most seasons of any sport in Colorado Athletic history. Her 427 victories are also the most by any coach at the school.

Despite leaving the coaching ranks, Barry remains active and dedicated to the sport she has devoted so much time to. She served as chair of the NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Selection Committee for the 2010-11 season. In April 2010, she served as the chair of the search committee that brought back former Buffalo Linda Lappe to lead the CU women’s basketball team.

Barry took over a regionally successful program from one of her would-be mentees, the late Russell “Sox” Walseth, as former athletic director Eddie Crowley hired her as the fifth head coach in CU women’s basketball history on April 12, 1983. But her charge was to lead the then-Lady Buffs into the Big Eight Conference, which officially started league play their rookie season as coach and was considered the next level from the old Intermountain Conference in which CU had competed since the sport attained varsity status in 1974.

Barry’s pedigree, a four-year letterwinner and assistant coach at Kentuckiana and an 83-42 record in four seasons as head coach at Cincinnati convinced Crowder that she was the right woman for the job. Twenty-two years and four U.S. presidents later, a 427-242 record, 12 NCAA tournament appearances, including six times in the Sweet 16 and three times in the Elite Eight, 13 20-win seasons, four conference championships and seven years as the Pac-12 Coach of the Year, Barry’s most recent coaching tenure in Missoula, Mont.

Barry’s impressive resume has also given her the chance to see the world, coaching the likes of the R. Williams Jones Cup Team, which toured Taiwan in 1989, coaching the Big 12 All-Stars on a tour of Europe following the 2001 season. While her coaching travels have taken her abroad, the highlight was her stint as an assistant coach for the 1996 United States Olympic Basketball team that won the gold medal. The appointment was her seventh USA Basketball nod since 1987 as she worked with Stanford head coach Tara VanDerveer in coaching the red, white and blue to victory.

She was head coach of the 2004 U.S. Junior World Championships Qualifying Team, which went undefeated en route to the gold medal.

Barry was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2006 and the University of Colorado Athletic Hall of Fame in 2010. In January 2011, she became the third recipient of the University of Kentucky’s Susan B. Feamster Trailblazer Award. Barry, who earned her bachelor’s degree in accounting from UK in 1977, was part of the school’s first class of women’s basketball players to receive an athletic scholarship, lettering four times under coaches Pearmathrm and Debbie Yow.

She was born April 1, 1955 in Louisville, Ky., and graduated from Assumption High School in Louisville, where she lettered in basketball, volleyball and field hockey. She followed her bachelor’s degree from Kentucky with her master’s in education from Cincinnati in 1979. At Kentucky, she also lettered three times in field hockey in addition to her accomplishments as a basketball player.

Prior to the formation of the Big 12 Conference in 1996, Barry was the Big Eight Coach of the Year four times (1989, 1993, 1994, 1995) and the district V Coach of the Year in 1993 and ’95. The 1995 squad posted a school record 30 wins and came within a whisper of advancing to the Final Four. She led her teams to four regular season Big Eight titles and five postseason tournament titles, the last the inaugural Big 12 Tournament in 1997.

When the 1997 tournament title placed Barry’s name in the inaugural Big 12 record book it was a fitting transition for a coach whose name will forever be etched into the history of the Big Eight. In her 13 seasons she was 184-96 when leading the Buffs against Big Eight foes. Barry won more regular-season games (118), league titles (4), tournament titles (4), coach of the year honors (4) and coached more newcomers of the year (4) than any other league coach, while tying for the most NCAA tournament appearances with seven.

Barry’s Buffs had three wins over then-defending national champions with the most shocking coming in 1995 in Colorado’s first-ever Sweet 16 appearance, an 80-67 win over Stanford in the NCAA West Regional semifinal in Missoula, Mont.

Following her second consecutive Big Eight title in 1994, the United States Basketball Writers Association and Basketball Times Magazine named Barry National Coach of the Year. On the local level, she was inducted into the Colorado Sportswomen Hall of Fame the same year. Twice, Barry has had her name on the finalist list for the Naismith Award for Coaching, those honors coming in the last three seasons.

While those awards signified her on the court successes, Barry’s favorite accolade in her decorated career came in 2003 when she was presented with the CU Alumni Association’s Robert Stearns Award in recognition of one’s extraordinary contributions to the university. Making the award even more special, she was nominated by that season’s senior captains Linda Lappe, Sabrina Scott and Diana Spencer.

Her dedication to the student-athlete was also put on center stage in 1995 when she was presented with one of the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association’s highest honors, the Carol Eckman Award. That honor is presented to a coach who exemplifies sportsmanship, commitment to the student-athlete, integrity, ethical behavior and dedication to the purpose. The award was made more special when presented to Barry by her friend and colleague, Carol Callan, also the color commentator on CU radio broadcasts.

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MATT BIGGERS
Associate AD / Chief Marketing Officer

Matt Biggers is in his eighth year as the associate athletic director of external affairs and chief marketing officer, having joined the University of Colorado athletic staff on July 5, 2012. He is also the sports administrator for CU’s women’s volleyball program.

Biggers, 47, came to Colorado after spending a combined 18 years with two teams in the National Basketball Association. At Colorado, he oversees marketing and promotions, ticket operations, community outreach, BuffVision and digital and database marketing while also coordinating efforts with Buffalo Sports Properties (BSP) in addition to being the department’s liaison to the Pac-12 Network.

Prior to coming to CU, Biggers was the vice president of marketing and communications for the New Orleans Hornets. He was hired by the Hornets in 2007 as the vice president of marketing and communications, before being promoted the following year. Biggers oversaw the organization’s marketing, advertising, branding, creative services, events, game operations, media relations and ticket services.

Biggers’ most demanding professional challenge undoubtedly came in “The Big Easy.” In his first year in New Orleans, the Hornets set a club record for their time in New Orleans for most sellouts in a season (2007-08), and then broke that record the following season. But reaching and surpassing those marks was not easy.

When the Hornets returned to New Orleans after a two-year displacement to Oklahoma City following Hurricane Katrina, the season ticket base was fewer than 5,000. Biggers spearheaded drives that took season ticket sales to over 10,000 in 2008-09 - the largest increase in the NBA. He received the Hornets’ “Coach of The Year” award in 2009, an acknowledgement from the team’s senior executive peers given to the organizational leader who best exemplifies his/her team’s mission and values.

Also under trying circumstances, the Hornets were challenged to reach the 10,000 season ticket mark again in the 2011-12 campaign. The NBA was dealing with work stoppage and the New Orleans franchise was seeking to secure local ownership, a long-term lease agreement with the state and was facing the imminent departure of star point guard Chris Paul to the Los Angeles Clippers. Instrumental in that drive was the campaign “I’m In.” The campaign included a “100 Events In 100 Days” event and proved to be a surprising success in the community, with the Hornets accomplishing the improbable and reaching their 10,000 season ticket goal.

Biggers’ first NBA experience came with the Orlando Magic and RDV Sports, where he spent 12 years and left as the director of marketing for the Magic. His responsibilities with the Magic included overseeing all of the marketing, advertising, branding, game presentation and events. While in Orlando, he also worked as an operations/marketing assistant for the Orlando Predators (Arena Football) and served on the boards of the Florida Children’s Hospital and the Heart of Florida United Way Promotions Committee.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration Management from Appalachian State University in May 1994 and a Master of Science in Sport Management from Georgia Southern University in December 1995.

His previous work in collegiate athletics includes serving as a student assistant coach for the Appalachian State baseball team and as vice president of that school’s men’s club volleyball team. He also volunteered in sports media relations at Georgia Southern and worked as an event assistant for the Florida Citrus Bowl.

He was born on November 9, 1971 in Columbus, Ohio but moved to Florida at age 3 with his family; he graduated from Seabreeze High School (Daytona Beach), where he lettered in football and baseball. He is married to the former Robyn Winokur, and the couple has two daughters, Peyton (16) and Avery (13).

Ben Broussard is in his third year as CU’s assistant athletic director of external affairs and his second as a senior associate athletic director, joining the department on October 1, 2017.

Broussard, 42, oversees all aspects of the Buff Club, the athletic department’s fundraising arm, and is also the sports administrator for the men’s basketball program, which he was assigned in concert with his promotion to a senior associate AD on August 1, 2018.

In June 2019, he was honored as one of 11 members of this year’s College AD’s 2019 “Next Up” class, an annual list of senior-level administrators of rising stars in intercollegiate athletics. Those selected are handpicked by a panel of sitting athletic directors. He was also named the second vice president and secretary for NAADD (National Association of Athletic Development Directors).

The Mission of the Buff Club is to secure the philosophy and funding that directly supports CU Athletics in its mission to deliver a world-class and comprehensive student-athlete experience. The organization “connects donors’ passions with the vision and priorities of the department by leveraging our professional expertise in a uniquely personal way.”

He has presented multiple times at national conferences, including the Southeastern, Big 12, NAADD (National Association of Athletic Development Directors) and CASE Louisiana conferences. He has been on NAADD’s executive committee since 2015 and in July 2018, was elected to the organization’s board of officers as its third vice president and treasurer.

As vice president for development at LSU, Broussard accomplished several major goals, including developing and implementing a marketing and sales strategy that led to the sale of over $45 million in premium seat inventory; executing a strategy that raised over $90 million philanthropically from 2014-17 for the needs of LSU; cultivating the relationship to secure a $40 million planned gift for the benefit of LSU Engineering and LSU Athletics; designing and executing the Preservation of Tiger Stadium campaign to raise over $12 million to refurbish, repair and improve LSU’s legendary football home; and implementing a plan that led to his team raising over $12 million for the construction of a state of the art nutrition center for student-athletes in 18 months.

Prior to his last post at LSU, Broussard served as its director of development from 2006 to 2010, and as a development officer from 2004 to 2006. Broussard graduated from LSU with a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology in 1999 and earned his masters of science degree in 2001. As a student at LSU, he was a member of the school’s club rugby team.

He was born August 5, 1977 in Lafayette, La., and graduated from Acadiana (La.) High School, where he lettered in both basketball and baseball. His hobbies include playing golf, the outdoors and old cars. A member of the U.S. Marine Corps, he is a board member for the Make-A-Wish Foundation for Texas/Louisiana. He is married to the former Dana Russo, and the couple have three children, sons Jude (12) and Evan (7) and daughter Evie (5).

JOSI CARLSON
Director of Special Events

Josi Carlson is in her 13th year overall working for CU athletics, her sixth as the school’s director of special events as she was promoted to the position in September 2013. She is responsible for coordinating all special events for athletics, including team banquets and fan and donor functions, as well as managing events that are hosted in CU’s Arrow Touchdown Club, Crawford Champions Club, Byron R. White Club and the Rooftop Lounge.

Carlson, 37, has worked in special events for the athletic department since April 2011, helping to organize over 100 events a year as the top assistant. Prior to that, she spent two years as the director of operations for Olympic sports, overseeing the needs for the volleyball, soccer, men and women’s golf and women’s tennis programs. She originally joined the department as an assistant in the compliance office in June 2007 and worked two years in that position before shifting into her operations role.

Carlson graduated with her bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Montana in 2005. Prior to receiving her degree, Carlson earned her Associate of Arts degree in 2002 from Dawson Community College in Glendive, Mont., where she was a two-time softball letterwinner.

At Dawson, Carlson excelled on the field and in the classroom; she was a 2001 and 2002 Golden Glove recipient and a Louisville Slugger third team NCJAA All-American in 2002 (first base). In the classroom, she was named a 2001-02 distinguished Academic All-American and a 2001-02 scholar-athlete All-American.

Prior to her work at CU, Carlson served as a Public Information Coordinator for the Big Sky Conference office in Princeton, N.J. and was an intern in the communications department for USA Wrestling at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

Born March 9, 1982 in Minneapolis, Minn., she graduated from Sentinel High School in Missoula, Mont., where she lettered in basketball, softball and volleyball. Her hobbies include golf, hiking and snowboarding.
Emily Canova is in her sixth year as the assistant athletic director for special projects, as she was promoted into the position in June 2014. She is also in her second year as the sports administrator for CU’s men’s and women’s ski programs.

She played a key role in the construction of CU’s new Champions Center, serving as the liaison with Populous (the architects), particularly in the area of interior design and managing the overall branding of the building.

Canova joined the department as a community outreach coordinator in September 2010. After six months in that position, she transitioned into CU’s newly created student-athlete leadership development program, where she served as its assistant director until she was appointed as an assistant AD. However, during this time frame, she also helped develop CU’s “Guiding Principles” and then worked with athletic director Rick George to coordinate the formulation of the department’s strategic plan and Sustainable Excellence Initiative (SEI).

Prior to CU, she had an extensive background working in non-profits in Colorado, where she relocated after her college graduation. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1991, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in Exercise Science and Athletic Training; she was a member of the Dean’s List. At UW, she earned three letters as a member of the varsity crew team. As a senior, she was the recipient of the school’s Graves Award, presented by the rowing team to the student-athlete who makes the most significant contribution based on leadership, physical strength and mental fortitude.

Canova trained on the Olympic Development Team for crew in Lake Placid in the summer of 1989.

She was born in Montclair, N.J., but moved to Virginia when she was 10, where graduated from Langley High School in McLean. Her hobbies include biking, hiking, cycling, swimming and in general enjoying the “wonders of the outdoors.” A competitive triathlete, she finished third in the 1996 Danskin Triathlon. She is the mother of two, son Baker (14) and daughter Alice (12).

J.T. GALLOWAY
Associate AD/Equipment & Licensing

J.T. Galloway is in his 15th year overall in the CU athletic department, his eighth coordinating and managing all phases of CU’s licensing, logos and imaging and was thus promoted to an assistant athletic director in 2010 and to associate athletic director status in 2016.

He first joined the department on April 4, 2005 as equipment manager overseeing the needs particularly for football but for all of Colorado’s 16 intercollegiate sports at the time (now 17 with the addition of women’s lacrosse). Galloway, 51, continues to oversee the equipment operations, but reduced his day-to-day obligations with the Buffalo football program as he transitioned more and more into his licensing and trademark duties. In 2016, he added sports administrator duties over the men’s and women’s golf programs, and in 2018, he was the recipient of an “Honorary C” award for his dedication to the department.

He became the fourth person to hit double figures in years serving as the equipment head in CU history. Lee “Silver” Akins handled the chores for 34 years (1936-69), with Bill Crowder heading the area for 17 years and Mike Smith just under 11. Galloway is a certified member of the Athletic Equipment Manager’s Association (AEMA), a status he attained in 1995 upon entering the profession full-time.

He graduated with a degree in sport management in 1994 from Washington State University, where he worked all four years of his college career as a student employee in the WSU equipment room. He began his professional career as an equipment intern at the University of Virginia in the fall of 1994 and worked there six months. He then moved on to the National Football League’s Atlanta Falcons, where he was an assistant equipment manager for the 1995 season.

He returned to the college ranks as the football equipment director at Wake Forest from 1996 to 1998 before heading west to Arizona where he would spend the next six seasons as the associate director of equipment. Born John Thomas Galloway on May 10, 1968 in Columbus, Ohio, Galloway graduated Gaithers High School in Tampa, Fla. A sports fanatic, he enjoys all sports, especially football. He is married to the former Kelly Christy, a registered nurse, and the couple has two children, Katie (20) and Collin (17).

Cecil Hairston II is in his first year as the associate athletic director for ticket operations, sales and services, joining the department on May 1, 2019.

Hairston, 40, is a veteran in the ticketing profession, as he brings 15 years of on-campus experience with previous stops at Bowling Green State University, Oregon State, Cincinnati and most recently Boise State. He has focused on revenue generation while fostering customer service driven cultures, having led ticketing teams that achieved the highest attended home football and men’s basketball games in Cincinnati history as well as the top 10 attended football games in Oregon State history, where he also led the unit that was responsible for the highest number of season ticket sales in school annals.

At his previous schools, he has coordinated ticket sales for eight football bowl games: Hawai’i (two), Sun (two), GMAC, Emerald, Las Vegas and Alamo. While at Oregon State, handled the College World Series ticket distribution for the Beavers’ back-to-back national championship baseball teams in 2006 and 2007.

Hairston began his professional career at his alma mater, serving as the assistant director of ticket operations at BGSU in 2004-05; he then moved on in a similar capacity at Oregon State (2005-08), before being named director of ticket ops from 2008-10. He was promoted to assistant AD at OSU in 2010, where he oversaw ticket operations, concessions and merchandising. He returned to his home state (Ohio) in 2015, where he would serve three years as the assistant athletic director for ticket operations at the University of Cincinnati.

He moved back to the Pacific Northwest for a year (2018), working as the general manager for IMG College/Learfield and Boise State University.

He graduated from Bowling Green State University in 2004 with a bachelor’s degree in the school’s Sport Management program, making the Dean’s List. He was born November 7, 1978 in Columbus, Ohio (he has seven sisters), and graduated from Columbus’ Beechcroft High School, where he lettered in football. His hobbies include travel and cooking; he also takes pride in being a “third-generation left-hander,” following his dad and grandfather as southpaws. He is married to the former LaTisha “Tish” Swann, and the couple has three children, Jordyn (20), Rashawn (17), and Rahman (12).

Cory Hilliard is in his 12th year with athletic department at the University of Colorado, his second as a senior associate athletic director, promoted to that position on August 1, 2018. That came after serving eight years as the associate athletic director for business operations after he originally joined the department in March 2008 as assistant business manager.

On July 1, 2016, the chief athletic financial officer (CAFO) responsibilities were added to his title and duties, and he also serves as the sports administrator for CU’s cross country and track programs.

In his position, Hilliard is responsible for the management of the administrative, financial, budget, human resources, and payroll functions for the athletic department and its 17 sport programs. In addition to his business operations duties, Hilliard oversees the information technology support services for the Buffaloes.

Hilliard, 47, came to CU from the University of North Dakota where he was the assistant athletic director for business operations for three years (2006-08). He earned the promotion at UND after serving five years as the assistant director for business services (2001-06).

Hilliard graduated from Minnesota State University-Moorhead in 1995 with aBachelor of Science degree in Health Education, and in 2006 earned his Master’s degree in Business Administration from the University of North Dakota. Hilliard also attended the University of Wyoming from 1990-92 where he was a member of the track team, participating in the hurdles and relay events. While at MSU-Moorhead from 1993-95, he also lettered in the sport.

He was born August 2, 1972 in Rochester, Minn., he graduated from Manitou Springs High School ( Colo.) in 1990, where he lettered in football and basketball.
was an outstanding track and field athlete. He ran the 110- and 300-meter hurdles and was a member of the 4x200 and 4x400-meter relay teams that won multiple state titles in addition to the boys team championship in 1990. At one time (during the 1989 season), he held the Colorado state high school record in the 300-meter hurdle and is a former high school national champion in the 60-meter hurdles and 400-meter hurdles.

Hilliard is married to the former Abby Barendt, and the couple has two sons, Zach (23), a senior tight end on the Missouri Baptist football team, and Jacob (17). He is actively involved in the College Athletic Business Management Association (CABMA) as well as a member of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA).

**JILL KEEGAN**

**Associate AD/Compliance**

Jill Keegan is in her 10th year as a member of the University of Colorado athletic department, her second as an associate athletic director for compliance. She was promoted to the latter on August 1, 2018, after serving three years as an assistant athletic director for compliance, as she was promoted to that role on June 1, 2014. She also has sports administration duties for CU's tennis program. She previously was the associate director for four years, initially serving as the rules education coordinator, though her role gradually expanded through the years.

She came to Colorado in October 2010 from Michigan State University where she served as the Assistant Compliance Coordinator for four years. Prior to Michigan State, Gainey was the Assistant Director of Compliance at Marshall University where she also completed her Master's degree in Sport Administration in 2006. Gainey received her bachelor's degree in Sports Marketing and management from Indiana University in 2005 where she also served as an intern in the compliance office.

A native of Owatonna, Minn, the former Jill Gainey graduated from Angola High School in Angola, Ind., in 2001, lettering in volleyball, basketball and track and field. She currently resides in Denver with her husband Brian and enjoys attending sporting events, traveling, outdoor activities and reading. Her and her husband Brian are the parents of a 2-year old son, Nolan.

**PREMA KHANNA**

**Assistant AD/Marketing**

Prema Khanna is in her 16th year as CU's director of marketing, as she was promoted to the position July 7, 2004, and in her sixth as an assistant athletic director, earning that promotion in the summer of 2013.

She is in her 18th year overall the department, having worked two years as promotions manager for the Buffaloes after joining the staff in August 2002. She is responsible for coordinating marketing efforts for football, basketball and volleyball ticket sales, as well as promotions both on and off the fields and courts, including game day atmosphere.

Khanna, 48, came to Colorado from Texas Tech, where she worked two years as the director of marketing and promotions. She got her start at Missouri, her alma mater, as a graduate assistant in 1995, and was hired full-time the following year as marketing and promotions coordinator. In 1997, she was promoted to assistant director of marketing and held that position for the next three years before moving on to Texas Tech in 2000.

She graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1995, and earned her master's degree in sports administration from MU in 1997.

Born July 29, 1971 in Haldwani, India, her family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, when she was a toddler, and then to Toronto, Ontario in second grade. She lived in Canada until she was 13, when her family established residency in Columbia, Mo. She graduated from Rock Bridge High School, where she lettered in tennis.

**TED LEDBETTER**

**Assistant AD/Development**

In his current role, Ledbetter maintains a primary focus on major gift fundraising initiatives working with donors throughout the state of Colorado and the Pacific Northwest. From 2012-2016, Ledbetter directed all aspects of the Buff Club annual giving program, including donor recognition and stewardship, development operations and premium seating at Folsom Field and the CU Events Center.

Prior to joining CU, Ledbetter spent five years in annual and major gift fundraising roles with the University of Michigan Athletic Department. At Michigan, Ledbetter was responsible for endowment and capital gift fundraising efforts throughout the Midwest and Northeast United States. He was involved in all aspects of the successful $230 million Michigan Stadium Renovation Project and coordinated the selection and renewal process for over 3600 premium seats and 81 private suites.

A native of Oklahoma City, Ledbetter graduated from Oklahoma City University in 2004 where he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. While at OCU, Ledbetter was a two time NAIA All-American and All-American Scholar-Athlete in baseball (2003, 2004), earning first-team Academic All-America honors as a senior. In 2004, his senior season, the OCU leftfielder was named the Rawlings NAIA National Player of the Year when he batted .504 with 20 home runs and 90 runs batted in; he led the Stars to a 73-7 record and runner-up finish in the NAIA World Series.

He was a 23rd round selection of the Florida Marlins in the 2004 Major League Baseball amateur draft (the 698th player selected overall). He played in 71 games in the minor leagues over the 2004-05 seasons (with Jamestown in A-ball and with Schaumburg, an independent). After retiring from the game, Ledbetter completed a Master of Education in sports administration from Wichita State University in 2007.

He is married to the former Anne Yeagley, and the couple have three children, daughter Lucy and sons Jon Albert and Parker.

**LINDSAY LEW**

**Assistant AD/Digital Marketing**

Lindsay Lew is in her fourth year as the assistant athletic director for digital and database marketing, as he was promoted to the position on July 1, 2016, after serving since 2007 (nine years) as the director of strategic sales and communication. She is in her 22nd year overall at Colorado, in the second of two stints working for the school.

Lew, 44, is responsible for oversight of ecommerce operations and revenue management for the CU athletic department, as well as digital advertising, email marketing, business analytics and social media components of CUbuffs.com. She was the recipient of an “Honorary C” award in 2016 for her dedication to the department.

She was an assistant sports information director for at CU for five years (1999-2004), before leaving in August 2004 for a marketing position with Webroot Software. She was promoted from graduate assistant SID on August 6, 1999 to an assistant’s position after working the previous year as the GA in the media relations office and one year as a student assistant; she was the first woman at CU to hold the grad assistant role in the SID office, and is the first female student worker in sports information to become an assistant AD at the school.

Lew was the women’s soccer SID her first three years as an assistant SID, before switching to women’s basketball and women’s indoor and outdoor track for the final four years in her first tour of duty. She also served as media coordinator for two women’s NCAA basketball sub-regionals and was the official statistician for the 1999 NCAA Women’s Soccer College Cup in Palo Alto, Calif. In 2013 she served as the Tournament Director for the Pac-12 Women’s Golf Championship in Boulder at Boulder Country Club.

Lew is a 1997 graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where she received her bachelor’s degree in Communication. She returned to her native state in the fall of 1997 to begin graduate studies in the CU journalism school’s Integrated Marketing Communication program. She received her master’s degree in December 1998.

She was a soccer standout at Trinity, a nationally-ranked Division III program, earning all-conference honors all four years, as well as NSCAA All-Region honors as a sophomore. Lew also played collegiate golf for two years, helping Trinity to the 1995 conference championship. She also worked in the
Born July 23, 1975 in Denver, the former Lindsay Anhold graduated from Green Mountain High School in 1993, where she lettered in soccer, basketball, and softball. She has remained active in soccer through the years, coaching in camps (including at one time for the Julie Foudy Championship camp), and is an avid golfer and runner. Her younger brother Eric is a Colorado grad, and her father Monty is a graduate of UC-Denver. She is married to Jason Lew and have two sons, Jackson and Dylan.

**DR. ERIC MCCARTY**

**Head Team Physician**

Dr. Eric McCarty is in his 17th year working with the CU athletic program, joining the sports medicine team in July 2003. But he's certainly no stranger to the University or to Boulder.

McCarty, 54, is the head Orthopedics at CU's Health Sciences Center in Denver, where he also is an associate professor, enabling him to return to his home state where he starred as both a prep and collegian.

He returned to CU from Vanderbilt University, where he was an orthopedic surgeon, assistant professor and team physician for the Commodores' athletic teams for four years.

McCarty is the head team physician for the University of Colorado, the head orthopedic team physician for the University of Denver, and the medical director and head team physician for the National Hockey League's Colorado Avalanche. As a board-certified orthopedic surgeon his specialized practice involves the care of collegiate athletes as well as recreational and highly competitive athletes from the community. A large part of his practice is the sports medicine care of high school athletes in the state of Colorado.

He graduated in 1988 from CU with a degree in kinesiology and a 3.75 grade point average. A four-time Academic All-Big Eight team member, the first in school history to be honored four times, he was an Academic All-American his senior year, when he reached the finalist stage for the Rhodes Scholarship. On the field, he earned first-team All-Big Eight honors as a senior, when he led the Buffaloes with 148 tackles, the fourth highest total at the time in team history. He had 237 career tackles in two years on defense, after moving over from offense where he played fullback (503 career rushing yards), and earned four letters.

He earned his M.D., with honors, in 1993 from the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver, and did his internship residency at Vanderbilt University in orthopedic surgery between 1993 and 1998. Shortly thereafter, he spent a year at the internationally renowned Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City, where he received a fellowship in sports medicine and shoulder surgery. While residing in New York, he worked with the NFL's New York Giants. During this time is when he obtained his expertise in the arthroscopic and open surgical management of sports injuries to the knees and shoulders as well as a special emphasis in the management of complex shoulder problems including shoulder instability, rotator cuff tears and shoulder replacement surgery for arthritis.

In addition to his busy clinical practice, Dr. McCarty is very active in research, teaching, and writing articles in the field of sports medicine and knee and shoulder surgery. He has received grants for his research and has given numerous talks at both the national and international level. One of his many interests is the care of the high school athlete, and his background allows him the ability to understand the issues surrounding the prep athlete.

McCarty has been the recipient of over four dozen awards in his professional career, and has had papers published on 15 occasions while contributing to several others.

He was born November 16, 1964 in Lundstuhl, West Germany. He graduated from Boulder High School in 1983, where he was the state's player of the year as a senior and considered one of the nation's top recruits after rushing for 1,301 and 13 touchdowns; he won the prestigious Denver Post Gold Helmet Award that same year. He is married to the former Miriam Liddell, and they have four children, Madeleine (24), Eric Cleveland, Jr. (22), Shannon (19) and Torrance (17).

**SCOTT McMICHAEL**

**Assistant AD/Development**

Scott McMichael is in his 13th year as an assistant athletic director of development at the University of Colorado. He works to support endowments, annual gifts, and capital projects by generating major gift revenue and also has worked with the school's Alumni C Club, supporting alumni relations.

Prior to joining Colorado in 2007, McMichael spent 10 years working for the University of Kansas as the Assistant Athletic Director/Director of the Williams Educational Fund & K-Club. As Director of the Williams Fund he cultivated new contributors and stewardship of existing donors generating over $5 million annually. He also developed a Career Placement Program for student-athletes.

McMichael graduated from Kansas with a bachelor's of science degree in education and also studied business and education in graduate school. He was a four-year letterwinner for the Jayhawks' football team where he set a school passing record as a sophomore and earned honorable mention to the All-Big 8 conference team. McMichael was a free agent signee of the Atlanta Falcons after his playing days at KU.

Born and raised in Kansas City, McMichael graduated from Shawnee Mission West High School in Overland Park, Kan. He enjoys spending time with his wife Marcia, his son Bryce, and his daughter Morgan. His hobbies include hiking, water skiing, golf and travel. He was the recipient of an "Honorary C" award in 2016 for his dedication to the department.

**MARY ELLEN O’MALLEY**

**Manager of Medical Services**

Mary Ellen O’Malley is in her 11th year as the manager of medical services for the Sports Medicine Program at the University of Colorado, joining the sports medicine department in 2008.

Before joining the CU staff, she spent 14 years as the owner of HeartSong Wellness Coaching and Therapeutic Bodywork in Longmont, Colo. Nationally certified in therapeutic massage and bodywork, O’Malley’s business catered to a diverse clientele in need of a variety of treatment protocols such as injury rehabilitation, sports maintenance/recovery and stress reduction.

O’Malley served as the President/Education Director of Colorado’s Cortiva Institute from 2004-06, where she facilitated and managed a vocational school start-up for therapeutic massage training. She was also the vice president/faculty chair of the Boulder College of Massage Therapy from 1996-2003 as well as an instructor.

A native of Scranton, Pa., O’Malley is a 1977 graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo where she played basketball and field hockey. She received the first financial grant for a female women’s basketball player awarded by the athletic department after women's basketball became a varsity sport prior to her senior year.

After obtaining her bachelor's degree in Physical Education & Health, she served as a physical education teacher at West Seneca West Junior High School in West Seneca, N.Y.; she also coached varsity girls soccer and junior varsity girls basketball at West Seneca (Senior) High School. She then spent 12 years as a senior marketing representative/education coordinator for New York State Electric and Gas in Lancaster, N.Y., before moving to Colorado.

She is affectionately called “Clyde” by the student-athletes and staff, a nickname that dates back to her grade school days.
Dr. Sourav Poddar is his 29th year working with the CU athletic program, his 19th with the football program as a team physician and his fourth as the athletic department’s medical director, for which he was named on July 1, 2016; the Pac-12 Conference required someone from each member school to hold the designation.

Poddar, 47 is an associate professor in the departments of Family Medicine and Orthopaedics at the CU School of Medicine, and sees patients at the CU Sports Medicine Center. He also serves as the Director of the Primary Care Sports Medicine (PCSM) Program. He has served in leadership roles for the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the AMSSM Foundation. He has also served on the NCAA’s Competitive Safeguards Committee and currently sits on the Pac-12’s Brain Trauma Task Force.

He is board certified in family practice, with a CAQ certificate in sports medicine. His specific areas of medical interest within the realm of sports medicine include heat illnesses, sports-related concussion and special expertise in the management of acute and chronic joint and soft tissue injury, including novel approaches using biologic therapies. In addition to primary care, he specializes in the non-operative management of sports medicine injuries, as well as injury prevention, and novel approaches to treat overuse injuries.

He graduated from Rice University in 1993 with a degree in biochemistry, and then completed medical school at the University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas in 1997. At Rice, he was a member of the soccer team.

Poddar completed his residency in family practice at the UCHSC-Rose in Denver (he was chief resident during his third year in residency), and subsequently completed a fellowship in sports medicine at the University of Colorado, working with former CU team physician Rob Loeffler. Born April 15, 1972 in Bombay, India, his family moved to the United States when he was a two-year old; he graduated from Clear Lake High School in Houston, where he lettered in soccer. He is married to the former Emily Poddar. (His name is pronounced shuh-rav poe-dar.)

Rachel Ripken is in her 12th year as a member of CU athletic department, dating back to when she was a freshman in school in 2008 and earning her way into several promotions since. She was named Director of Community Outreach on August 1, 2018, which entails most of her duties as Community Outreach Manager, which she has done since being promoted on July 1, 2016.

In her current role, she manages all of the athletic department’s community outreach initiatives and popular programming such as Read with the Buffs, Chip’s Kids Club and Ralphie’s Kids Roundup. She manages the Ralphie live mascot program and oversees CU’s spirit groups, which include cheer, dance and the costumed mascot, Chip. She also coordinates coach and student-athlete appearances and Leadership Through Service opportunities in the community.

Ripken, 29, has spent her entire professional career with the Buffaloes, as she was appointed as a marketing and promotions associate following her graduation from CU in 2012. Shortly thereafter, she was hired full-time as a community outreach coordinator.

She graduated from the University of Colorado in 2012, with a double major in History and Communication while earning a minor in Dance. She worked as a student assistant for four years in the men’s basketball office under head coaches Jeff Bzdelik and Tad Boyle while earning her degree.

She was born November 22, 1989 in Baltimore, Md., and graduated from St. Paul’s High School in Brooklandville, Md., where she was a member of the school’s dance company. Her hobbies include skiing, hiking, traveling and going to sporting events. Her family has famous baseball lineage, most notably her father, Cal Ripken Jr., the Baseball Hall of Fame infielder who played 21 seasons in the majors, all with the Baltimore Orioles (and set the record for most consecutive games played with 2,632). An uncle, Billy Ripken, also played in the majors for 12 seasons, and a grandfather, the late Cal Ripken Sr., was a player, coach and manager in the Orioles organization for 36 years. A younger brother, Ryan, is currently in the Orioles’ minor league farm system (AA ball with the Bowie Baysox of the Eastern League).

ATHLETIC STAFF

(Football related; does not include others who have not taken a portrait)

Roy Abousamra
Assistant Equipment Manager

Mackenzie Altman
Buff Club

Troy Andre
Associate SID

Chris Apenbrink
Ticket Office

Gary Barnett
Radio Analyst

Sam Beckenstein
Recruiting Assistant

Michelle Bell
Buff Club

Dana Bielinski
Assistant Dietitian

Michele Brannigan
Learning Specialist

Kevin Brennan
Academic Mentor

Allison Butler
Food Services Manager

Brian Cabral
Football Staff

Dave Callan
Leadership Development

Chip
Costumed Mascot