



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!

We'll begin shortly



Civil, Environmental and
Architectural Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



Environmental Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Bufs

TOGETHER

COLLEGE OUTSTANDING AWARDS



Peter Heller

EVEN BS

Outstanding Undergraduate Overall

“Take advantage of as many of the great resources this College offers and use them to get the most out of your time here!”



Civil, Environmental and
Architectural Engineering

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Environmental Engineering

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COLLEGE OUTSTANDING AWARDS



Sally Thérèse Gerster

AREN BS – CVEN MS

Outstanding Graduate for International Engagement

“It's not easy to leave the comforts of home and discover a new place, but the people you meet and the life-long friendships you build will make it all worthwhile.”



Civil, Environmental and
Architectural Engineering

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Environmental Engineering

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COLLEGE OUTSTANDING AWARDS



Selena Hinojos

EVEN BS

Outstanding Graduate for Service

"The greatest lesson I learned from CU Boulder is to be comfortable with uncomfortable situations, as this will allow for the most growth and success."



Civil, Environmental and
Architectural Engineering

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Environmental Engineering

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COLLEGE OUTSTANDING AWARDS



Briana Santa Ana

CVEN BS

Outstanding Graduate for Service

“My best piece of advice to other students would be to work hard, strive for things you never imagined yourself doing, and never forget to give back to where you came from.”



Civil, Environmental and
Architectural Engineering

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Environmental Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

KETCHUM AWARDS

Ketchum Award Winner

Kathryn Sufka

CVEN BS

"I am so honored to receive this award, and I am grateful to have been able to study civil engineering at CU. I have worked very hard to learn as much as I could during my time here, and I believe I have achieved that."



Civil, Environmental and
Architectural Engineering

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Environmental Engineering

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KETCHUM AWARDS

Ketchum First Runner Up

Sally Thérèse Gerster

AREN BS – CVEN MS

“It's not easy to leave the comforts of home and discover a new place, but the people you meet and the life-long friendships you build will make it all worthwhile.”



Civil, Environmental and
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KETCHUM AWARDS

Ketchum Second Runner Up

Lauren Kercheval

CVEN BS

"I will always remember the importance of demonstrating my gratitude to my family, friends, professors, and other communities for their support."



Civil, Environmental and
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Environmental Engineering

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LET'S WELCOME OUR STUDENT SPEAKER

Peter Heller

**College of Engineering and Applied Science
Outstanding Undergraduate Overall.**

**EVEN Outstanding Graduate for Academic
Achievement.**



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TOGETHER

PhD HOODING SPEECH

It is my great pleasure to present to you a group of students who are dressed a little differently than the rest – our PhD candidates.

These students are not only dressed differently, but their accomplishments and career paths are different.

After receiving a BS degree, requiring 4-5 years of rigorous study itself, somehow they decided that was not enough!

They have spent the last 3, 4, 5, or even more years in school beyond their Bachelor's or Master's degree.

While during this time they have completed additional coursework, their primary focus has been on performing research to create new knowledge or technologies to improve society.

Indeed most of the material in the vast array of textbooks used by our undergraduates was initiated by somebody's PhD research.



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PhD HOODING SPEECH

Right now, PhD students in Engineering are working on many of society's most important and challenging technical problems.

They are determining how to best integrate wind and solar energy sources into the electric power grid. They are developing novel materials to impact medicine and health care.

Each PhD candidate has successfully carried out independent, novel research to advance a particular field and written and orally defended a PhD dissertation that is frequently the length of a long novel.

Indeed this is often the most focused, intense research effort they will undertake throughout their career.

It is carried out in a close partnership with a faculty mentor that is often the most significant and influential relationship of a PhD's career, both professionally and personally.

Today we will recognize our PhD candidates in a traditional ceremony we call Hooding.



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PhD HOODING SPEECH

The hood given to each candidate by his or her faculty advisor, symbolizes the awarding of their doctorate.

The hood originated nearly 800 years ago as a normal article of clothing that was used to cover the head and shoulders and as a bag for carrying alms.

Of course the form and function of the hood have changed dramatically since then, and today, it is entirely honorific and decorative.

It has some unique characteristics that I want to tell you about – the wide blue velvet trim represents the PhD degree and the colors represent the institution awarding the degree.

Today we are proud to present our graduates a hood with the University of Colorado colors of silver and gold.

May we now present the candidates for Doctor of Philosophy?



Civil, Environmental and
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AREN PhD STUDENTS



Baqer Eisa Ameer

Advisor:
Moncef Krarti

Title of thesis:
“Development of a Simulation Environment for Designing and Retrofitting Sustainable Buildings in Urban Centers”

“I learned to never give up, work hard to the last minute and pray to the god to bless my effort.”



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AREN PhD STUDENTS



Yangyang Fu

Advisor:
Wangda Zuo

Title of thesis:
“Modeling and Control of Grid-interactive
Efficient Data Centers”

“Find your inner peace as soon as possible.”



Civil, Environmental and
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Environmental Engineering

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AREN PhD STUDENTS



James Shiveley McNeill Jr

Advisor:
John Zhai

Title of thesis:
“Experimental and Computational Investigation of Surgical Environment Air Distribution”

“Work on developing analytical, problem solving, collaboration and communication skills that are key to addressing the greatest societal challenges.”



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CVEN PhD STUDENTS



Zach Bullock

Advisors:

Shideh Dashti, Abbie Liel, and Keith Porter

Title of thesis:

“A Framework for Performance-Based Evaluation of Liquefaction Effects on Buildings”

“My advice for other students is to keep things in perspective and try not to stress too much.”



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Environmental Engineering

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CVEN PhD STUDENTS



Maria Calahorra-Jimenez

Advisors:

Keith Molenaar and Cristina Torres-Machi

Title of thesis:

“Exploration of best-value procurement for improving the accomplishment of highway projects' goals”

“Work hard, trust you, and let your light shine.”



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Environmental Engineering

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CVEN PhD STUDENTS



Mikaela DeRousseau

Advisors:

Joseph Kasprzyk and Wil V. Srubar III

Title of thesis:

“Application of Multi-objective Optimization Techniques for Designing Concrete Mixtures”

“If you begin to suffer from imposter syndrome, realize that grad school is a process. You will learn and you will get there!”



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CVEN PhD STUDENTS



Kristen Marie Hess

Advisors:

Wil V. Srubar III

Title of thesis:

"Multiscale Hygromechanical Behavior of Natural Fiber Composites for Construction Applications"

"My best piece of advice for other doctoral students is to keep at it and when you are on a research roll ride the wave!"



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CVEN PhD STUDENTS



Sean Horvath

Advisors:

Balaji Rajagopalan and Julienne Stroeve

Title of thesis:

“Exploring the spatial and temporal variability and predictability of Arctic sea ice through statistical modeling”

"Take time off, burnout is real!"



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CVEN PhD STUDENTS



Rebecca Komarek

Advisor:

Angela Bielefeldt

Title of thesis:

“Exploration and Assessment of Leadership Development in Engineering Students”

“To me, earning my PhD represents resilience, opportunity, newfound freedom.”



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CVEN PhD STUDENTS



Michael (Mickey) Rush

Advisor:

Harihar Rajaram

Title of thesis:

“Numerical Modeling of Hillslope Thermo-Hydrology to Understand Spatial and Temporal Trends in the Formation of Frozen Ground”

“For me, graduate school was all about trying on the technical computer scientist hat. So graduation means re-acquainting myself with my right brain!”



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CVEN PhD STUDENTS



Rico Salas

Advisor:

Matthew Hallowell

Title of thesis:

“Empirical Evaluation of Construction Safety: Insights from Economic Trends, National Cultures and Workplace Injury Rates”

“Safety is a complex and dynamic system. In every number you count, there’s a human life behind it.”



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CVEN PhD STUDENTS



Katie S. Welfare

Advisor:

Matthew Hallowell

Title of thesis:

“Creation and Validation of a Model for Measuring Human Factors Climate”

“There is light at the end of the tunnel – don’t get bogged down by the small stuff.”



Civil, Environmental and
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Environmental Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

EVEN PhD STUDENT



Matthew James Bentley

Advisor:

R. Scott Summers

Title of thesis:

“Enhancing biochar sorption of organic micropollutants in water treatment: Impacts of ash content and background dissolved organic matter”

“Work hard. Be humble. Never stop learning.”



Civil, Environmental and
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Environmental Engineering

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BUFFS

TOGETHER

AREN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

*Is awarded to the student in Architectural Engineering
with the highest CU undergraduate GPA.*

The winner is: **Justin Rimbach**

*“Acknowledging the giants whose backs I’m standing on,
THANK YOU to the family, friends, professors, faculty, and
teammates whose encouragement got me across the
finish line.”*



Civil, Environmental and
Architectural Engineering

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Environmental Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

AREN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Is awarded to the student for outstanding engagement in the international arena.

The winner is: **Courtney Kauffman**

“The connections you make, community you build, and experiences you gain in college are just as, if not more, important as the grades you earn.”



Civil, Environmental and
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Environmental Engineering

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AREN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR SERVICE

Is awarded to the student for outstanding service contributions.

The winner is: **Edgar D. Varela Torres**

“Remember that there is a whole realm of opportunities out there; take every single one you get because you never know which opportunity will become your dream career.”



Civil, Environmental and
Architectural Engineering

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Environmental Engineering

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AREN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR RESEARCH

Is awarded to the student that demonstrated excellence in research.

The winner is: **Hayley Kinlaw**

“I never thought that as an architectural engineering student I would be in a NASA competition, but what this showed me is there really is an endless world of possibilities of what you can do.”



Civil, Environmental and
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AREN BS/MS GRADUATE STUDENTS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Sula Ali
Hamad Aljaafar
Amanda Bronson
Mitchell Carlson
Kyle Crump
Sarah Dafoe
Andrew Eisenberg
Natalie Ezra
Sally Gerster*
Elijah Gonzales
Brentan Harper
Ever Hernandez Aguirre
Lulwa Husain

Courtney Kauffman
Hayley Kinlaw
David Morroni
Adam Nguyen
Shawn Nguyen
Aisling Pigott
Alexios Prekas
Justin Rimbach
Elizabeth Rogers
Eric Sipocz
Galen Sloss
Jiaqi Tang
Rachel Turner

Jeanpierre Vallve
Edgar Varela
Tyler Wolowicz

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Mohammed Almansour
Angelique Fathy
Brenton Kreiger
Archan Nimishkumar Shah
Christina Turley



Civil, Environmental and
Architectural Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

* BS/MS Student



Environmental Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

CVEN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Is awarded to the student in Civil Engineering with the highest CU undergraduate GPA.

The winner is: **Kathryn Sufka**

“I am so honored to receive this award, and I am grateful to have been able to study civil engineering at CU. I have worked very hard to learn as much as I could during my time here, and I believe I have achieved that.”



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Environmental Engineering

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CVEN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Is awarded to the student for outstanding engagement in the international arena.

The winner is: **Paula Pulido**

"I am empowered to continue my pursuit to better this world for others through the power of engineering across cultures. Obrigada, Gracias and Merci Beaucoup!"



Civil, Environmental and
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Environmental Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

CVEN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR SERVICE

Is awarded to the student for outstanding service contributions.

The winner is: **Lauren Kercheval**

“My time at CU has provided me countless opportunities that I wouldn't trade for any others! I will always remember the importance of demonstrating my gratitude to my family, friends, professors, and other communities for their support.”



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Environmental Engineering

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CVEN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR RESEARCH

Is awarded to the student that demonstrated excellence in research.

The winner is: **Aldrich Valerian**

“By receiving this award, those useful experiences motivate me to even strive harder and keep moving forward into the next chapter of my life because this is just the beginning of my life journey.”



Civil, Environmental and
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CVEN BS/MS GRADUATE STUDENTS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Hussain Al Habib
Ethan Albro
Khaled Almohaisen*
Maryam Alnajjar
Nora Alnajjar
Hamdam Alzarooni
Scott D. Barbian*
Richard Barnitz
Isabell Baumann*
Eric Berg**
Khaled Binmubarak
Jared Brack
Thomas Costello
John Dudley
Evangeline Frechette
Christopher Frenette

Lucas Garcia
Emma Gardner**
Ricardo Haddad Salleg
Cristian Hernandez
Javier Hollines
Annie Huang*
Alexis Huntsinger
James Kellen
Lauren Kercheval
Connor Killoran
Nancy Le
Trent Martinez
Tabitha McCombe**
Aaron Morrison**
Sara Mottaghi Mazlaghani
Nathan Munoz
Breno Nasser

Erin Nebel*
Haoyu Nie
Michael Nietes
Trinity Payne
Steven Person
Caleb Pimmel
Paula Pulido
Kerry Ribbens**
Gabriel Romero
Shae Sandoval
Briana Santa Ana
Jian Song
Tristan Steinman
Kathryn Sufka*
Vanessa Thompson
Gregory Torney
Melanie Traylor



Civil, Environmental and
Architectural Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

* BS/MS Student
**CMU Partnership Student



Environmental Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

CVEN BS/MS GRADUATE STUDENTS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Noah Traynor
Aldrich Valerian
Juan Vazquez-Vellasenor

Rachel Wall**
Mitchell White
Xiong Zhuang

PROFESSIONAL MASTER OF SCIENCE

Katherine Junglen
John McCarl

Alex Sofranko
Crystal Wheaden

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Abdulaziz Alzaabi
Joshua Anderson
Marello Arroio Bebianno
Simoes
Ilana Crankshaw
Nathan Deanda
Melissa Frey
Shubham Gaur

Sally Gerster*
Melanie Holland
Annie Huang*
Sydney Joffre*
Eric Johnson
Lucie Majeticova
Jaldhi Mathukia
Sonny Moraga

Erin Nebel*
Alexander Nolan*
Michelle O'Donnell
Katelyn Reeves*
Hailey Rose
Kathryn Sufka*



Civil, Environmental and
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* BS/MS Student
**CMU Partnership Student



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EVEN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Is awarded to the student in Environmental Engineering with the highest CU undergraduate GPA.

The winner is: **Peter Heller**

“Take advantage of as many of the great resources this College offers and use them to get the most out of your time here!”



Civil, Environmental and
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Environmental Engineering

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EVEN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Is awarded to the student for outstanding engagement in the international arena.

The winner is: **Keani Willebrand**

“I have learned that when we begin to question why the world operates as it does today, we can begin to imagine what the world could look like tomorrow.”



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EVEN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR SERVICE

Is awarded to the student for outstanding service contributions.

The winner is: **Selena Hinojos**

"The greatest lesson I learned from CU Boulder is to be comfortable with uncomfortable situations, as this will allow for the most growth and success."



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Environmental Engineering

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EVEN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FOR RESEARCH

Is awarded to the student that demonstrated excellence in research.

The winner is: **Alison Kessenich**

“Seek help when you need it and give help whenever you can.”



Civil, Environmental and
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EVEN BS/MS GRADUATE STUDENTS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Casey Bangs
Shelby Buckley
Casey Campo
Rachel Cornwell
Jade Foley
Marshall Frank
Emily Gabel
Joseph Gallagher
Jasmine Gamboa
Nathan Gayo
Patrick Gibbs
Ryan Gomez
Alasdair Gourlay
Claudia Guerra

Peter Heller
Shannon Hessler
Selena Hinojos
Myles Howard
Sydney Joffre*
Katherine Johnson
Alison Kessenich
Jacob Lacy
Ouping Li
Ziyu Li
Katherine Lindberg
Otto Lucas
Madeline Manfre
Michael Michelini

Zachary Nguyen
Alexander Nolan*
Austin Ramm
Katelyn Reeves*
Antoinette Ridgel
Alexander Rubino
Sean Schumacher
Alexander Shaver
Ryan Smith
BrandiGene Spano
Meghan Vonck
Keani Willebrand
Amanda Worthy
Jiashu Yang
Shucheng Yu



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* BS/MS Student



Environmental Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

EVEN BS/MS GRADUATE STUDENTS

PROFESSIONAL MASTER OF SCIENCE

Hannah Atkinson
Katie Claar

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Matthew Burke
Erin Cantrell
Courtlyn Carpenter
Caleb Cord

Ayari De La Rosa-Perkins
Marylia Duarte Batista
Allison Fry
Matthew Jones

Juliette Kaplan
Ryan Keliher
Anuraagavi Sankaran Srikaanth



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Environmental Engineering

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FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

Distinguished
Achievement Award

John Zhai

Research
Development Award

Wangda Zuo

Young Researcher
Award

Ben Livneh

Service Award

Matthew Hallowell

Teaching Award

Jennifer Scheib

Staff Award

Joanne Uleau

AREN Faculty
Appreciation Award

Kyri Baker

CVEN Faculty
Appreciation Award

Matthew Morris

EVEN Faculty
Appreciation Award

Julie Korak

Eckel Faculty
Excellence Award

Victor Saouma



Civil, Environmental and
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Environmental Engineering

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TOGETHER

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST OF LUCK!

You are CU – SKO Buffs!



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