

Class Notes

In May 2011 **Christina Bojanowski** (Comm'08) moved to Los Angeles and has worked on multiple national commercials for the Tennis Channel, worked for TV shows broadcasted on Bravo, TLC and the Food Network and served as an editor. Christina is a production coordinator for Food Network's *Cupcake Wars*. She writes, "I am humbled and blessed to be where I am thus far in my journey here in Hollywood."

A founder of Unreasonable Institute **Daniel Epstein** (Phil'08) announced in spring a new program called Unreasonable at Sea. The program is for technology entrepreneurs who desire to take their ventures into new international markets. It is made up of teams who use technology to solve social and environmental challenges of this century, all while traveling on a ship to more than 14 countries in 100 days. Daniel lives in Boulder.

In June **James Nickerson** (Psych'10) married Talmai Aguierre in Silver City, Colo. The

couple lives in Boulder.

UNAVCO promoted **Matthew Beldyk** (MCompSci'11) to software engineer II. The company is a nonprofit university-governed consortium that facilitates geosciences research and education. Matthew lives in Longmont, Colo.

Read the other decades of Class Notes online at www.coloradanmagazine.org

Boulder resident **Daniel Omasta** (PolSci'11) volunteers with CU-Boulder's Alumni Association to maintain the association's LinkedIn Sustainability Group. He is a principal at Strategic Resource Solutions Consulting. To join the LinkedIn group, go to www.cualum.org/social.

After graduating a semester early **Jamie Roberts** (Jour'11) moved to Quepos, Costa Rica, to become vice president of MidWorld Costa Rica, an adventure park nestled within the country's tropical

jungle. She oversees all involved with the park, sometimes even working as a photographer on the ziplines or guiding tours. In her spare time she likes to travel to see the rest of the country with her camera always in tow. "I believe in taking full advantage of everything Costa

Rica has to offer, and it's not uncommon to find me doing some crazy activity, like bungee jumping or waterfall rappelling," she writes. One of her photos appeared in the June *Coloradan* in the "Leafing through summer" feature.

Following his May commission with the United States Marine Corps **Steven Gore** (CivEngr'12) will be shipping out for The Basic School in January 2013. In the meantime he has traveled to England to visit family, and will go to Peru to see Macchu Picchu, Wyoming to climb and Nepal to hike near Annapurna. Once Steven reports to The Basic School he will be instructed on everything required to become a basic infantry officer.

Accomplishing his dream of moving back to California after graduating CU, **Esteban Hernandez** (Jour'12) relocated to Los Angeles this summer. He blogs for the web show "What's Trending" in Hollywood, covering pop culture news.

Cassandra Hickman (Jour'12) is a fifth-generation graduate

from CU. Her great-great-grandmother, great grandparents, grandparents and father all graduated from the university. Cassandra writes that the count for graduating members of their family thus far is 23. She lives in Boulder.

Since graduation **Christopher Kennedy** (Jour'12) writes he is catching up with family and old friends. He is interviewing at various live music organizations in Washington, D.C. "Nothing cemented in terms of employment so far, but I'm still optimistic," Christopher writes.

For two years **Christie Sounart** (Jour'12) worked as a student assistant for the *Coloradan*, writing feature stories, profiles, Class Notes and news stories. Upon graduating in May, she became the interim assistant editor for the magazine. She then traveled to Costa Rica for the remainder of the summer to see the splendor of the country and to visit her friend **Jamie Roberts** (Jour'12). Christie lives in Arvada, Colo.

The summer after spring graduation **Andrew Tycksen** (MechEngr'12) went on a two-week mission trip to Cambodia to help a village that was previously settled on a minefield. He taught and played with children who attended a nearby school. Since returning from Cambodia, Andrew works as a mechanical engineer for Electric Equipment & Engineering. The company designs and builds power equipment for such telecommunication companies as Verizon and T-mobile. He lives in Arvada, Colo.

PROFILE Nick Loritsch and Joshua Dragge



Born and raised to make movies

Striving to stand out as filmmakers in the immensely competitive city of Los Angeles, **Nick Loritsch** (Film'03) and **Joshua Dragge** (Film'99) have made a giant leap in the industry with the successful debut of their independent film *Born & Raised*.

"We're not these L.A.-Sunset Strip guys," Nick says. "We just want to make good films."

Born & Raised premiered last spring at the Miami International Film Festival. The movie is an emotional coming-of-age drama centered on a small town young man and his outlaw grandfather and highlights themes of love, family and forgiveness. Nick wrote the screenplay — many of the characters are loosely based on people in his life — and starred as the main character Bubbs. Joshua directed and edited the film. Both were producers.

Born & Raised was shot in 2009 in rural areas of Panama City, Fla., and the next two years were spent in post-production work. Working with a limited budget was always at the forefront of their minds, Nick says.

"It's a character-driven piece about relationships," Joshua says. "It's not about the spectacle."

The movie has been well-received, appearing in such festivals as the Sonoma International Film Festival, the Bare Bones Film Festival and the Breckenridge

Festival of Film. In addition to working on his own films, Nick is an assistant for Jeffrey Katzenberg, cofounder of DreamWorks Animation SKG. Joshua was an assistant for director Antoine Fuqua, known for such films as *Training Day* and *Shooter* but works as a freelance film editor today to spend more time with his wife and daughter.

Nick and Joshua weren't film majors when they enrolled at CU-Boulder but quickly changed their academic paths to follow their passion for film. The two met when film professor Jerry Aronson paired them to work on Nick's senior thesis project, *Vogue Models and Beer Bottles*. After the humorous short film was screened at the Los Angeles International Film Festival, Jerry encouraged them to move to Los Angeles. In honor of their mentor, Nick and Joshua named their production company Jerry-Rigged Films.

"CU was such a wonderful place to lay the foundation to what would become a career in the visual arts," Joshua says.

The duo has several more projects in the works with the intention of attracting investors for money and obtaining big-name actors to reach a wider audience.

"It all comes back to telling a good story," Joshua says. "Hopefully for an hour and a half or two hours we can give people a journey into a life they don't have."

—**Christie Sounart** (Jour'12)