The College of Natural Sciences (CNS) has evolved greatly over the decades. From the beloved Civil and Irrigation Engineering Building (still in use as home to the dean’s office and the statistics department) to our upcoming new biology and chemistry building projects, the spaces we occupy have always been a part of who we are. Our footprint has grown dramatically in recent years, and there’s good reason. Today the CNS is the third-largest college at Colorado State University, and it contains two of the University’s most popular majors: biology and psychology.

Our students, researchers, and faculty members occupy all corners of this grand campus. We thrive in spaces old and new. I hope you’ll spend some time with this publication. Flip through and watch our campus grow and morph over the years. Place yourself on one of the older maps, if that’s when you were here. Where was your first class? Where did you meet your sweetheart? Where did you live? Then think about where we’re at today, the great strides we’ve made together, and the many possibilities for the future.

At Colorado State, our state’s land-grant institution, we embrace progress while always acknowledging what has come before. Part of that means remembering how things “used to be”—because, after all, the past is always part of our identity.

It’s my pleasure to share this College of Natural Sciences history with you. Enjoy.

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### COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES THROUGH THE YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>The Agricultural College of Colorado is founded in 1870, six years before Colorado becomes the 38th state of the Union; the cornerstone of Old Main is laid in 1878.</td>
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<td>1878</td>
<td>The first professor of chemistry, Frank Anns, joins the faculty, establishing the College of Natural Sciences' (CNS) curricular lineage.</td>
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<td>1897</td>
<td>Janice Nerger becomes the first endowed chair, named for chemistry Professor John Still, is created.</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>The Chemistry/Statistics Hall opens with state-of-the-art classroom and laboratory space for biochemistry, biology, and chemistry. It is soon renamed Yates Hall, after the 12th president of CSU. The CNS second endowed chair, named for Albert L. Meyers, is designated in chemistry.</td>
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<td>1918</td>
<td>The seeds of today’s CNS Learning Community are sown when the Special Residential Program (SRP) opens in Green Hall. The community occupies four floors and houses 90 students. It is the first of CSU’s SRPs, with a computer lab.</td>
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<td>1959</td>
<td>The Civil and Irrigation Engineering Building – now the Statistics Building and home to the CNS dean’s office – is completed. In 1918, the building serves as an infirmary during the notorious pandemic.</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>The Behavioral Sciences Building opens, housing the Department of Psychology.</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>Janice L. Nerger takes over as the fourth dean of the College of Natural Sciences.</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Today, about half of CNS undergraduates take part in collaborative research alongside faculty members.</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>The Professional Science Master’s (PSM) program begins, equipping students for leadership roles in zoo, aquarium, and animal shelter management.</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Students vote to provide $57 million in student fees toward a new biology building. A new chemistry research building, funded largely by the State Legislature, is planned concurrently.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>The spring commencement ceremony is the largest in CNS history, with 605 students making the walk across the stage.</td>
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**Cover photo:** The CNS Learning Community at Laurel Village, which opened 2014.
1960s

The Duane F. Hartshorn Student Health Center, named for a popular alumnus and campus physician, still stands today.

Venerable Hughes Stadium began with a groundbreaking ceremony in May 1967 and has endured the passing decades.

The chemistry faculty, circa 1967.

In May of 1970, Old Main burned – forever changing CSU’s footprint and lore.

Old Main, January 1961, once an iconic campus landmark.

Graduates from the Secretarial Training School take a break, June 4, 1965.


FUN FACT:
The Oval’s original elm trees were planted in 1920. In 2012, 27 additional elms were planted to sustain the design.
Prior to the beloved CAM the Ram, the University’s first official mascot was an English bulldog named Peanuts.

Dean Cook, first dean of the College of Natural Sciences, in his office, 1969.

Computer science has come a long way since this scene in 1979, which likely took place in Rockwell Hall.

By the 1970s, the CSU lagoon had replaced some campus parking to provide a picturesque meeting spot.

The Chemistry Building, completed in 1971.

The western side of the Clark Building as seen from the Plaza, October 1975.

FUN FACT:
When the College of Natural Sciences was created in 1968, Dean William B. Cook, a chemist, took the reins.
STATE OF GROWTH

1980s and Beyond

The Molecular and Radiological Biosciences Building, home to the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has been an anchor of CSU’s south end since 1989.

The Behavioral Sciences Building, opened in 2010, houses the Department of Psychology.

The Department of Computer Science moved into its state-of-the-art new building in 2008.

Ingersoll Hall was home to the CNS’ first residential college. By the late 1990s it had helped reshape residential life at CSU.

The physics water plaza is both a tranquil and instructive stop near The Oval.

FUN FACT: The physics water plaza incorporates a Parshall Flume, which was invented by CSU pioneer Ralph Parshall.

Formerly home to chemistry, the Weber Building now houses the Department of Mathematics.

The latest evolution of the Statistics Building involved a 1995 interior renovation and incorporation of the CNS dean’s office.

The Molecular and Radiological Biosciences Building, home to the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has been an anchor of CSU’s south end since 1989.
In 2014, the CSU Board approved construction of an on-campus football stadium, which will reshape our campus.

The Center Avenue Mall and Yates Hall, as seen from in front of the Molecular and Radiological Biosciences building and looking north.

An extensive renovation of Lory Student Center was completed in late 2014, ensuring it remains a signature campus destination.

The future Biology Building, due to break ground in the summer of 2015, is part of a larger, more powerful initiative: a closely coupled science hub that will include a new chemistry research building.

The CNS Learning Community, housed in the stunning Moby Molecular and Radiological Biosciences building and looking north.

The CNS Learning Community is part of a larger, more powerful initiative: a closely coupled science hub built for collaboration, support, and interaction with faculty.

Today

STATE OF COMMUNITY

The Administration Building sits on the south end of The Oval – one of the most distinctive and storied campus settings.

FUN FACT:
The 400 members of the CNS Learning Community live and study in a community built for collaboration, support, and interaction with faculty.

The CNS Learning Community, housed in the stunning 800-bed Laurel Village complex, came online in 2014 and continues a legacy of community-building in the CNS.
A math class fights spring fever just like countless others have done before: by sitting along The Oval.

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